

United States Congressman praises PM Modi, calls him a charismatic leader



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Indian American Congressman Shri Thanedar praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, describing him as a "very charismatic leader" and highlighting the growing relationship between India and the United States. Speaking in an interview with IANS, the Michigan Democrat recalled meeting Modi during his state visit to Washington and said the Prime Minister encouraged him to help fellow lawmakers better understand India's diversity and economic progress.

Thanedar said he plans to lead another bipartisan Congressional delegation to India to showcase the country's rapid development and expanding global role. He also expressed support for stronger India-United States ties, saying closer cooperation between the two democracies would help address shared strategic challenges, including China's growing influence.

Trump releases declassified files alleging Chinese election interference



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President Donald Trump announced on Thursday that his administration has declassified intelligence and law enforcement records that he said reveal Chinese efforts to obtain United States voter data and exploit weaknesses in the country's election system. Trump claimed the documents show China acquired millions of voter records and that intelligence about the alleged activity was withheld during his first term.

He directed the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency and the Justice Department to investigate the matter. The records include intelligence assessments, investigative files and witness statements, although many of the allegations remain disputed or unproven. Trump also urged Congress to strengthen election security by requiring proof of citizenship and photo identification for voting.

Jaishankar launches India's UN Security Council campaign, discusses global conflicts with Guterres

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External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Monday launched India's campaign for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, unveiling a six-point manifesto centered on "Shanti" while holding talks with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on conflicts in West Asia, Ukraine and Sudan. During his visit to New York, Jaishankar said India would continue to champion dialogue, diplomacy and the interests of the Global South while seeking election to the Security Council for the 2028-2029 term. In a post on X after meeting Guterres, he said the two leaders reviewed key global developments and reaffirmed the strength of India-United Nations cooperation.

Addressing diplomats and representatives of UN member states, Jaishankar introduced "Shanti," or Securing Holistic Advancement through Norms, Trust and Integrity, as the guiding framework for India's campaign.



He said India would bring its record in peacekeeping, development partnerships and counterterrorism to the Council while continuing to push for reforms that better reflect contemporary global realities. India, which has served eight terms as an

elected member of the Security Council, is also pursuing its long-standing bid for permanent membership. If elected by the UN General Assembly next year, it will begin its ninth two-year term on the 15-member Council in 2028.

US expands strikes on Iranian infrastructure, raising fears of wider regional war

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The United States has intensified its military campaign against Iran, expanding airstrikes to include bridges and other key infrastructure while reinforcing its naval blockade of Iranian ports, deepening the conflict centered on the Strait of Hormuz.

Early Friday, U.S. forces struck bridges in Iran's southern Hormozgan province, including Bandar Khamir, where Iranian state media reported at least seven deaths. Earlier attacks targeted sites around Tehran, Semnan province, home to Iran's ballistic missile and space programs, and Greater Tunb Island, a strategic location in the Strait. President Donald Trump warned that additional infrastructure,

including power plants, could be targeted unless Tehran resumes negotiations.

Iran retaliated with missile and drone attacks on Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar, triggering air defense interceptions and shelter warnings. Tehran also warned it would escalate attacks on regional infrastructure if U.S. operations continue.

The latest escalation follows Washington's decision to reimpose a naval blockade after Iran attacked commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital route that normally carries about one-fifth of the world's oil and natural gas supplies. With last month's interim ceasefire effectively collapsed, regional mediation efforts remain stalled, while global energy markets continue to face mounting uncertainty.

Canadian wildfire smoke blankets US Midwest and Northeast, triggering widespread health warnings

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Smoke from hundreds of wildfires burning across Canada blanketed large parts of the U.S. Midwest and Northeast on Thursday, prompting health officials to urge residents to stay indoors as hazardous air quality spread across at least 10 states. Detroit recorded the world's worst air quality, according to IQAir, with a pollution index of 600, double the level classified as hazardous by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Dangerous smoke also affected parts of Minnesota, Michigan, Illinois, Ohio and Ontario, while major cities including Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Toronto and New York reported unhealthy conditions.

Authorities canceled outdoor events across Minnesota and closed parks, swimming pools and recreation programs. New York City distributed free KN95 masks and advised residents, especially older adults, pregnant women and people with heart or lung conditions, to limit outdoor activity. The smoke also raised concerns ahead of Sunday's FIFA World Cup final in nearby New Jersey. Canada reported 858 active wildfires, including 111 that remain out of control, with nearly 5.9 million acres burned this season. Scientists say climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of wildfires, while wildfire smoke has been linked to serious cardiovascular, respiratory and other long-term health risks.

India to use Hafiz Saeed trial to strengthen case against Pakistan internationally



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India's decision to prosecute Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed in absentia over the Pahalgam attack could strengthen New Delhi's efforts to increase international pressure on Pakistan, according to officials familiar with the investigation.

The National Investigation Agency is expected to seek a non-bailable arrest warrant before asking the court to declare Saeed a proclaimed offender if he fails to appear. Officials said any conviction would support India's case before Interpol, the Financial Action Task Force and the United Nations by documenting Pakistan's alleged refusal to act against Saeed. Pakistan has repeatedly denied sheltering him and has dismissed India's extradition requests in the past.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf to launch nationwide campaign for Imran Khan's release

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf said it will launch a nationwide protest movement on August 5 to demand the release of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, who will have completed three years in prison by then. Party leaders said the campaign will include public rallies, demonstrations and a long march across the country. The decision was taken during a parliamentary committee meeting chaired by interim party leader Barrister Gohar Ali Khan. The announcement comes as Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, continue to challenge their convictions in the £190 million Al-Qadir Trust corruption case. The party also accused Pakistan's judiciary of failing to deliver justice and vowed to intensify pressure through nationwide protests.

U.S. Federal Reserve chair says inflation will not remain high under his leadership

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh told lawmakers on Wednesday that persistent inflation would not continue under his leadership, reaffirming the United States central bank's commitment to restoring price stability. Appearing before the Senate Banking Committee for his first semiannual monetary policy hearing, Warsh described the economy as resilient, citing steady growth, stronger manufacturing activity and continued investment in artificial intelligence. He said policymakers had kept interest rates unchanged at 3.5 to 3.75 percent while assessing economic conditions. Warsh acknowledged that conflicts, energy prices and tariffs could temporarily raise costs but said the Federal Reserve's responsibility is to prevent those shocks from becoming sustained inflation. He also announced internal reviews aimed at improving future monetary policymaking.

Spain and Gibraltar lift routine border checks under post-Brexit agreement

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Routine passport and identity checks at the Spain-Gibraltar land border ended on Wednesday under new arrangements agreed by the United Kingdom and the European Union after Brexit. The agreement, signed in Brussels this week, is intended to simplify travel and trade for more than 15,000 people who cross the border each day for work.

Vehicles, pedestrians and motorcycles began moving through the crossing without routine inspections after the provisional measures took effect. The agreement, which still requires approval by the European Parliament and formal ratification, is expected to strengthen economic ties between Gibraltar, Spain and the broader European Union while preserving the bloc's border and customs rules.

United States tightens visa rules for foreign students, journalists and exchange visitors

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States on Thursday finalized sweeping changes to its visa rules for foreign students, exchange visitors and foreign media representatives, replacing the decades-old "duration of status" system with fixed periods of admission. Under the new policy, most visa holders in these categories will be allowed to stay for the length of their approved program, up to a maximum of four years.

Those needing more time must apply directly to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and undergo biometric screening, background checks and fraud reviews. The rule also shortens



the post-study grace period for many students from 60 days to 30 days. Officials said the changes are aimed at preventing visa abuse, strengthening immigration oversight and enhancing national security.

Papua New Guinea moves to close Taiwan office in diplomatic win for China

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Papua New Guinea announced on Thursday that it will close Taiwan's representative office, a move widely seen as strengthening its diplomatic ties with China and reinforcing Beijing's One China policy in the Pacific. Foreign Minister Justin Tkatchenko said Taiwan's "physical presence" would no longer be recognized in the country and described the decision as an administrative step aimed at deepening relations with China. Beijing welcomed

the announcement, calling it the "right decision" and saying it would strengthen bilateral cooperation. Taiwan, however, said the move had not been discussed in advance and insisted its representative office would continue operating while it seeks clarification from Papua New Guinea's government. The development highlights China's continuing efforts to reduce Taiwan's international presence. Taiwan now maintains formal diplomatic relations with only 12 countries, relying largely on unofficial representative offices to conduct diplomatic and commercial affairs abroad.

Opposition support grows during Sonam Wangchuk's hunger strike

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Activist Sonam Wangchuk's indefinite hunger strike entered its 20th day on Friday, drawing growing support from opposition leaders who urged the federal government to open talks over demands linked to the alleged National Eligibility cum Entrance Test paper leak controversy. Former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Samajwadi Party leader Dimple Yadav and farmer leader Rakesh Tikait were among those who backed the protest at Jantar Mantar. Several opposition leaders, including Kapil Sibal, Sachin Pilot and K. C. Venugopal, also appealed to Wangchuk to end his fast because of concerns over his health while promising to continue pressing for



accountability. Organizers have called for a peaceful march to Parliament on Sunday, demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the examination controversy.

Japan approves male-only imperial succession law despite concerns over future of shrinking royal family

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Japan's parliament on Friday approved a landmark revision to the Imperial House Law that reinforces the country's centuries-old male-only succession system, despite growing concerns that the policy could threaten the future of the world's oldest hereditary monarchy. The legislation allows unmarried men descended from former imperial branch families to be adopted into the royal household to preserve the paternal bloodline, while permitting princesses to retain their royal status after marrying commoners. Prime

Minister Sanae Takaichi and conservative lawmakers have argued that the emperor's legitimacy rests on an unbroken male lineage. Critics, however, say the changes sideline popular Princess Aiko, the only child of Emperor Naruhito, who remains barred from the throne because she is a woman. With only five male members left in the 16-member imperial family and just one young heir, Prince Hisahito, historians and constitutional experts warn the revised law fails to address the monarchy's long-term succession crisis and instead reinforces a patriarchal system many believe is increasingly out of step with modern Japan.

Pentagon orders hormone screening for troops to boost combat readiness

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The Pentagon has ordered mandatory testosterone deficiency screening for all active duty and reserve service members aged 30 and older as part of a broader effort to improve military readiness and combat performance. Announcing the policy on Wednesday, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said the screenings are intended to help identify cases of "Operator Syndrome" and support targeted treatment where medically appropriate. Service members under 30 may request voluntary testing during routine health assessments. The Defense Department said the initiative will be integrated into its military health system and accompanied by updated clinical guidance, data collection and medical oversight to strengthen the health and operational readiness of United States forces.

Andy Burnham set to become United Kingdom's next prime minister after Labour leadership vote

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Andy Burnham is set to become leader of Britain's governing Labour Party on Friday, clearing the way to succeed Keir Starmer as prime minister on Monday after securing overwhelming backing from Labour lawmakers. The former Greater Manchester mayor, widely known as the "King of the North," returned to Parliament last month before launching his leadership bid. Burnham has pledged to shift more political and economic power from London to Britain's regions to reduce inequality and counter the growing popularity of Nigel Farage's Reform United Kingdom party. With the next general election due by 2029, Burnham faces pressure to quickly translate his long-term reform agenda into government policy.

Philippines condemns Chinese state media video depicting Filipinos as monkeys

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Philippines on Thursday condemned an artificial intelligence-generated video posted by China's state-run China Daily that portrayed Filipinos as monkeys, calling it racist, offensive and unacceptable. The video, published during events marking the anniversary of the 2016 South China Sea arbitration ruling, showed a monkey dressed in Filipino clothing being manipulated by hands representing the United States and Japan before being attacked with a water cannon. Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro described the video as "contemptible propaganda," while the Foreign Ministry demanded its removal. The incident comes amid heightened tensions between Manila and Beijing over competing territorial claims and repeated confrontations in the South China Sea. China had not publicly responded to the criticism.

Rubio seeks global front against far-left terrorism

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United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio called on Wednesday for stronger international cooperation to combat what he described as a growing threat from far-left terrorism during a State Department ministerial attended by representatives from 67 countries, including India. Rubio said governments had successfully weakened extremist Islamist organizations over the past two decades but argued that counterterrorism efforts must now address organized transnational networks involved in politically motivated violence. He said the Trump administration has designated four violent far-left groups as foreign terrorist organizations and launched new measures to disrupt their funding and operations. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Deputy White House Chief of Staff Stephen Miller also urged closer intelligence sharing and coordinated financial action against organizations accused of supporting political violence.

Texas flooding kills two as officials warn of record rainfall

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Two people were killed after floodwaters swept away their vehicles in Texas on Thursday as emergency officials warned that parts of the state could receive record-breaking rainfall over the next day. Governor Greg Abbott said emergency crews had carried out more than 230 rescues, including a helicopter operation that saved a stranded driver and his dog. More than 2,300 responders, supported by helicopters, rescue boats and other equipment, were deployed across flood-affected areas. The National Weather Service reported that up to 20 inches of rain had fallen in parts of the Texas Hill Country, where rivers were forecast to reach near-record levels, raising fears of further flooding.

Twenty-nine countries establish global artificial intelligence cooperation body

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Representatives from 29 countries signed an agreement in Shanghai on Thursday to establish the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization, a new intergovernmental body proposed by China to strengthen international cooperation on artificial intelligence. Founding members include Russia, Brazil, Cuba, Belarus, Serbia, Venezuela and countries across Asia and Africa. The organization's headquarters will be based in Shanghai. The agreement was signed ahead of the annual World Artificial Intelligence Conference, where Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to outline Beijing's vision for global artificial intelligence governance. China first proposed the organization at last year's conference, presenting it as a platform to promote international collaboration and common standards for artificial intelligence development.

Public anger grows after Zelenskyy removes Ukraine's defense minister

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Thousands of Ukrainians protested across Kyiv and other cities on Thursday after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy dismissed Defense Minister Mykhailo Fedorov, triggering one of the biggest public backlashes against his wartime leadership. Fedorov, 35, served only six months but earned widespread praise for accelerating Ukraine's drone program, reforming military procurement and promoting defense innovation. Zelenskyy said disagreements between Fedorov and military chief Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi had disrupted cooperation and justified the leadership change. The shakeup comes as Ukraine continues to face intense Russian attacks, with overnight strikes on Kyiv killing two people and injuring five, including a child. Parliament also approved Serhii



Koretskyi, the former head of state energy company Naftogaz, as the country's new prime minister. Protesters warned the dismissal could weaken Ukraine's defense capabilities at a critical stage of the war.

United Kingdom aid cuts slash support for several African countries

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The United Kingdom's overseas aid cuts will sharply reduce bilateral funding for several African countries over the next three years, according to newly released government figures. Analysis by development organization Bond found that assistance to Mozambique and Malawi could fall by up to 90 percent by 2029, while Rwanda and Sierra Leone face reductions of about 80 percent. The Labour government said it is redirecting more funding through multilateral institutions, including the World Bank, while increasing defense spending. Aid organizations, including Save the Children and Bond, warned the cuts



could undermine efforts to tackle poverty, conflict and climate-related crises. Critics also said the reductions risk weakening Britain's role in international development and humanitarian assistance.

South Korea considers social media ban for children under 14

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korea is considering new restrictions that would prevent children younger than 14 from opening social media accounts while limiting addictive platform features for older teenagers, the country's media watchdog said on Thursday. Korea Media and Communications Commission Chairman Kim Jong-cheol said excessive

social media use among young people has become a global concern, with several related bills already under review in the National Assembly. He said authorities would proceed cautiously, noting criticism that led to the repeal of South Korea's online gaming curfew in 2022. The proposal follows similar efforts in Australia, the United Kingdom and the European Union to introduce stricter safeguards aimed at protecting children from the harmful effects of social media.

Council of Europe warns European Union deportation hub plans could undermine migrants' rights

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The Council of Europe on Thursday warned that plans by several European Union countries to establish "return hubs" for rejected asylum seekers in third countries could expose migrants to serious human rights risks. Human Rights Commissioner Michael O'Flaherty wrote to Austria, Denmark, Germany, Greece and the Netherlands, urging governments to ensure any future deportation arrangements comply with international law. He recommended legally binding

agreements, independent oversight, parliamentary scrutiny and detailed human rights assessments before any transfers take place. The warning follows the European Parliament's approval of reforms designed to speed up deportations and allow member states to establish migrant detention centers outside the European Union. Supporters argue the measures will improve migration management, while rights groups fear they could weaken legal protections and increase the risk of arbitrary detention and mistreatment. The debate reflects Europe's continuing struggle to balance border security with humanitarian obligations.

Joe Biden memoir to reveal why he quit the 2024 presidential race



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Former United States President Joe Biden will publish a memoir in November detailing his four years in the White House, including his decision to withdraw from the 2024 presidential election. Titled Promise Me, America, the book will be released on November 17 and will cover Biden's presidency, domestic agenda and foreign policy initiatives. According to the publisher, the memoir will also offer his first detailed account of the "deeply agonizing" decision to end his reelection campaign after a poor debate performance against Donald Trump. Biden withdrew from the race in July 2024 and endorsed then Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democratic Party's presidential nominee.

European Union and Ukraine expand defense partnership to boost weapons production

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The European Union and Ukraine launched a new defense industrial partnership on Wednesday, deepening cooperation on weapons manufacturing as Russia's invasion enters its fifth year. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed a letter of intent aimed at expanding joint production of drones, anti-drone systems and, by 2028, anti-ballistic missiles. The agreement is intended to strengthen Ukraine's domestic defense industry while enhancing Europe's security capabilities. Von der Leyen said Ukraine's fight against Russia is also a fight for Europe's freedom and pledged continued support for the country's air defenses ahead of winter. Ukrainian officials said Russian attacks killed at least nine civilians on Wednesday, underscoring Kyiv's urgent need for stronger military protection.

Kuwait intercepts hostile drones amid escalating Iran conflict

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Kuwait said on Thursday that its air defense systems intercepted hostile drones after explosions were heard across parts of the country, amid growing regional tensions linked to Iran. The military did not disclose the number or origin of the drones and reported no immediate casualties or damage. Kuwait's Foreign Ministry separately accused Iran of violating the country's sovereignty and warned that continued attacks against Gulf Cooperation Council members could further destabilize the region. Bahrain also said it intercepted Iranian missiles and drones targeting the kingdom, while Jordan reported shooting down eight Iranian missiles without casualties. The incidents highlight growing concerns that the conflict could spill over into more Gulf states despite heightened military readiness across the region.



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BOOK

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India’s permanent seat at the UN Security Council

A historic wrong that must finally be corrected



Dr. Avi Verma

As External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar formally launched India’s campaign for election to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the 2028–29 term, he also reaffirmed India’s broader vision for global governance under the framework of SHANTI—Securing Holistic Advancement through Norms, Trust and Integrity. The campaign emphasizes strengthening the voice of the Global South, reforming multilateral institutions, advancing peacekeeping, promoting the responsible use of artificial intelligence, ensuring maritime security, and combating terrorism. These are commendable priorities. Yet, they also highlight a deeper contradiction that the international community can no longer ignore.

How can the world’s largest democracy continue to be excluded from permanent membership of the very body responsible for maintaining international peace and security?

A security council stuck in the past

The United Nations was founded in 1945 by 51 member states in the aftermath of World War II. The five permanent members of the Security Council—the United States, the Soviet Union (now Russia), the United Kingdom, France, and China—reflected the geopolitical realities of that era. Eighty years later, the world has changed beyond recognition. The UN now comprises 193 member states. Colonial empires have vanished. Economic and political influence has shifted dramatically toward Asia, Africa and Latin America. India has emerged as the world’s most populous nation, the largest democracy, one of the fastest-growing major economies, and an indispensable voice in international affairs. Yet the permanent membership of the Security Council remains frozen in time. A global institution that seeks legitimacy cannot continue to operate under a power structure designed for a post-war world that no longer exists.

India’s credentials are beyond dispute

India’s claim to permanent membership is based on merit, not sentiment. It represents nearly one-sixth of humanity. It is a founding member of the United Nations and has consistently championed international law, peaceful dialogue, sovereign equality and multilateral cooperation. It is a nuclear power, a space-faring nation, a leading technology hub, and a trusted development partner across the Global South. Perhaps no other country has demonstrated such sustained commitment to the United Nations without enjoying permanent representation.

India has contributed nearly 300,000 peacekeepers to around 50 UN peacekeeping missions, making it one of the largest cumulative contributors in UN history. Indian soldiers have served in some of the



world’s most dangerous conflict zones, often making the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of international peace. Its humanitarian record is equally compelling. Whether through disaster relief, development partnerships, Vaccine Maitri during the COVID-19 pandemic, or leadership in initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, India has consistently acted as a responsible stakeholder in the international order.

The shadow of history

No discussion of India’s campaign is complete without acknowledging one of the most debated episodes in its diplomatic history. For decades, many Indians have believed that Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru “gave away” India’s permanent seat to China. The historical record is more nuanced—but it is no less consequential. There is no credible evidence that India was ever formally offered a permanent seat on the Security Council. Any such change would have required amendment of the UN Charter and broad international agreement. However, declassified diplomatic correspondence confirms that in the early 1950s, American officials informally explored the possibility of India replacing the Republic of China (Taiwan) on the Security Council. A few years later, Soviet leaders also indicated support for expanding the Council to include India.

Nehru chose not to pursue either possibility. He believed that the People’s Republic of China should rightfully occupy China’s seat and famously wrote that India should not seek permanent membership “at the cost of China.” History has judged that decision with increasing skepticism. Whether one views it as an act of diplomatic idealism or a strategic miscalculation, the consequences are undeniable. China today sits as a permanent member with veto power and has frequently opposed or avoided endorsing India’s own aspirations for permanent membership. India continues to campaign for a seat that many believe it should have secured decades ago. History cannot be rewritten, but it should certainly be remembered—not to assign blame, but to ensure that idealism never again comes at the expense of national interest.

Reform is essential for UN credibility

India’s demand is not an isolated aspiration. For years, the G4 nations—India, Japan, Germany and Brazil—have advocated expanding both permanent and non-permanent membership of the Security Council. African nations have similarly argued that a continent of more than a billion people cannot remain without permanent representation. Even among the existing permanent members, the case for India has gained significant support. The United States, Russia, France and the United Kingdom have all publicly endorsed India’s aspiration for

permanent membership. Only meaningful institutional reform remains elusive.

An organization that repeatedly speaks of inclusion, equity and democratic governance cannot indefinitely preserve a structure that excludes the world’s largest democracy from permanent decision-making.

India’s voice matters more than ever

Dr. Jaishankar’s campaign appropriately places special emphasis on strengthening the voice of the Global South. That message resonates because India has earned the trust of developing nations through partnership rather than dependency. Unlike many powers that have viewed the developing world primarily through strategic competition, India has emphasized capacity building, digital public infrastructure, affordable healthcare, disaster relief and sustainable development. It has sought to be a bridge between developed and developing economies, advocating dialogue instead of division. Similarly, India’s insistence on objective and evidence-based action against terrorism reflects decades of firsthand experience. A transparent sanctions regime free from political selectivity would strengthen—not weaken—the credibility of the Security Council.

The time has come

India is not asking the world for a favor. It is asking the United Nations to recognize the world as it exists today. A Security Council that excludes the world’s largest democracy, one of its largest economies, one of its biggest contributors to peacekeeping, and one of the most influential voices of the Global South cannot credibly claim to represent the international community. India’s campaign for the 2028–29 Security Council term is important. But it should not become another exercise in symbolic diplomacy while meaningful reform remains indefinitely postponed. The international community has spoken for decades about making the United Nations more representative, more democratic and more effective.

Those promises must now be matched by action. The world has changed. India has changed. The Security Council must change as well. Granting India permanent membership would not simply correct a historical imbalance—it would strengthen the legitimacy, credibility and effectiveness of the United Nations itself. The question before the world is no longer whether India deserves a permanent seat.

The real question is how much longer the United Nations can afford to deny one.

Best regards,
Dr. Avi Verma
Publisher,
IndoUS Tribune

Italy opposes United States proposal to charge ships using Strait of Hormuz



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Italy on Tuesday rejected a United States proposal to impose charges on commercial vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz, warning that such a move would undermine the long-standing principle of freedom of navigation. Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said tolls should apply only to man-made waterways such as the Suez and Panama canals and not to natural maritime passages that serve as vital international shipping routes. His comments followed President Donald Trump's announcement that the United States would seek reimbursement from cargo vessels and wealthy Gulf nations for protecting shipping through the strategically important Strait of Hormuz while reinstating a naval blockade on Iran. Tajani warned that allowing fees for natural straits could encourage similar charges elsewhere, increasing costs for global trade. For Italy, where exports account for a significant share of the economy, any new shipping tolls would place an additional burden on businesses already facing geopolitical uncertainty and higher transportation costs.

United States imposes new tariffs on Brazil after unfair trade practices investigation



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The United States will impose a 25 percent tariff on selected Brazilian imports beginning Tuesday after a yearlong investigation concluded that Brazil engaged in what Washington described as unfair trade practices. The Office of the United States Trade Representative said the measures target Brazilian policies related to digital trade, ethanol market access and illegal deforestation, while exempting major exports such as coffee, beef, petroleum products and aircraft parts. The decision marks one of the first major tariff actions since President Donald Trump's administration revived its trade agenda following a United States Supreme Court ruling that curtailed the legal basis for earlier import duties. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva rejected the tariffs as "illegal" and said his government would seek relief through the World Trade Organization while preparing reciprocal measures under Brazilian law. United States officials said negotiations remain possible, although a separate trade investigation could lead to additional tariffs on Brazilian exports in the coming weeks.

Indian investigators say ISI uses Shehzad Bhatti to build anti-India influence network

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian intelligence and law enforcement agencies allege that Pakistan-based gangster Shehzad Bhatti is being used by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence to recruit Indians for online influence operations designed to spread anti-India narratives and deepen social divisions. According to officials involved in the investigation, Bhatti's network identifies potential recruits by monitoring social media activity and targeting users who regularly post criticism of the government or public institutions. Recruits are initially assigned tasks such as sharing posts, amplifying content and engaging in coordinated online campaigns before being given more specific instructions, investigators said.

Officials also alleged that Bhatti's network operates multiple modules with different objectives, including online propaganda,



surveillance of sensitive locations and intelligence gathering. The allegations follow a major operation by Maharashtra's Anti-Terrorism Squad, which searched more than 200 locations and questioned over 100 people over suspected links to the network. Investigators believe additional modules could be established in other parts of India, including Punjab. Pakistan has not publicly responded to the allegations, which have not been independently verified.

India blames Pakistan for unrest in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir amid growing protests

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India on Tuesday accused Pakistan of systematically exploiting Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, saying weeks of anti-government protests reflect decades of political repression, economic neglect and the denial of basic rights in the disputed territory. Speaking at a weekly media briefing, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal alleged that Pakistani authorities had responded to peaceful demonstrations with excessive force, internet shutdowns and restrictions on food, medicine and other essential supplies. He urged the international community to hold Pakistan accountable for what India described as serious human rights violations. The remarks come as thousands of residents continue protesting across Pakistan-occupied Kashmir over rising taxes, electricity tariffs, inflation



and governance issues. The Joint Awami Action Committee has called for a long march toward Muzaffarabad to intensify the movement. Pakistan has not publicly responded to India's latest allegations, while the protests have drawn increasing attention on social media and among rights activists monitoring developments in the region.

BAPS temples across United States mark America's 250th anniversary

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BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha marked the United States' 250th anniversary with celebrations across the country, bringing together veterans, elected officials, faith leaders and local residents to honor the nation's history and diversity. On Wednesday, BAPS temples were illuminated in red, white and blue and hosted flag-hoisting ceremonies, interfaith gatherings, community open houses and volunteer activities in partnership with the nonpartisan America250 initiative.

The events celebrated the contributions of South Asian Americans to the United States in fields including medicine, education, business, technology, public service and the arts, while highlighting the country's traditions of religious freedom and cultural pluralism. Flag-raising ceremonies were held at BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham in Robbinsville, New Jersey, as well as temples in Los Angeles and Houston,



where local veterans and civic leaders participated. A message from BAPS spiritual leader Mahant Swami Maharaj offered prayers for the nation and encouraged community members to continue serving society with compassion, unity and civic responsibility. BAPS Charities also incorporated America250 themes into its annual Walk-Run events supporting local charitable organizations across North America.

Modi's Melbourne reception sparks political row as organizers reject Congress' 'paid crowd' claims



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Organizers of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's community reception in Melbourne have demanded a public apology from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and party president Mallikarjun Kharge after Congress leaders alleged that attendees at the event were a "paid crowd" backed by the Bharatiya Janata Party or the Indian government. In an open letter, the organizers described the allegations as "false" and "deeply disrespectful" to the Indian-Australian community, saying the event was driven by volunteers and community participation rather than political funding. They said those who traveled from cities including Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth either paid their own expenses or used community-supported travel arrangements under the volunteer-led "Modi Airways" initiative. The controversy follows Modi's July 9 address to an estimated 30,000 people at Melbourne's Marvel Stadium, one of the largest receptions for a visiting world leader in Australia. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Victoria Premier Jacinta Allan also attended the event, which celebrated the growing Australia-India partnership. While Congress leaders questioned the scale and funding of the gathering, the organizers said the event reflected the Indian diaspora's diverse and voluntary participation and urged the party to withdraw the allegations, saying political differences should not undermine the independence or integrity of overseas Indians.

Immigration shooting in Maine puts Republican Senator Susan Collins at odds with Trump

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A fatal shooting involving United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers has complicated Republican Senator Susan Collins' reelection campaign in Maine, exposing differences between the veteran lawmaker and President Donald Trump on immigration enforcement. After the shooting during a traffic stop in Biddeford, Collins called on Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin on Thursday to suspend non-urgent immigration traffic stops until investigations are completed and body cameras are fully deployed. Trump quickly rejected the proposal, arguing that traffic stops remain one of the agency's most effective law enforcement tools. The dispute comes at a politically sensitive time for Collins, the only Republican senator seeking reelection this year in a state won by Democrats in the last presidential election. Political analysts say the incident has shifted attention away from Democratic campaign turmoil and placed Collins' ability to influence the Trump administration under renewed scrutiny.

India and Poland reaffirm strategic partnership with focus on trade, defense and technology

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Poland reaffirmed their commitment on Monday to strengthening their strategic partnership across politics, trade, investment, defense, technology, culture and counterterrorism during high-level talks in New Delhi.

Secretary (West) in India's Ministry of External Affairs, Sibi George, met Polish Secretary of State Wladyslaw T. Bartoszewski and Under Secretary of State Michal Baranowski to review progress and identify new areas of cooperation. The discussions built on meetings held earlier this year in Warsaw that focused on expanding collaboration in electric vehicles, mining, shipping and education while leveraging opportunities created by the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement.

Both sides also emphasized deeper parliamentary exchanges, stronger business partnerships and enhanced people-to-people ties. Officials said the talks reflected the growing depth of the India-Poland strategic partnership and reaffirmed both countries' commitment to broadening cooperation across a wide range of sectors.

Indian Army's engineers power humanitarian mission in earthquake-hit Venezuela



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Indian Army said on Monday that its engineering personnel played a critical role in the success of Operation Amistad, India's humanitarian assistance mission in earthquake-hit Venezuela, by ensuring uninterrupted medical support throughout the deployment. Engineers from the Shatrueet Task Force established and maintained essential electrical infrastructure while repairing critical medical equipment, allowing the field hospital to remain fully operational under difficult conditions. The hospital performed more than 8,000 medical procedures and laboratory investigations, including over 20 major surgeries, providing lifesaving treatment to hundreds of earthquake survivors. The Indian contingent returned home on Friday after successfully completing the mission. Venezuela's Acting President Delcy Rodriguez thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for India's timely assistance and solidarity. The operation reinforced India's reputation as a trusted first responder, demonstrating its capability to deliver rapid humanitarian assistance and disaster relief during international emergencies.

India and the European Union deepen strategic partnership through innovation, connectivity and supply chain cooperation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and the European Union expanded their strategic engagement this week as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held a series of high-level meetings in Brussels aimed at strengthening cooperation in trade, technology, connectivity and innovation.

During the inaugural India-Belgium Strategic Dialogue on Wednesday, Jaishankar and Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Maxime Prevot reviewed collaboration in trade, clean energy, defense, pharmaceuticals, mobility and investment, while identifying new opportunities in ports, semiconductors, maritime cooperation and resilient supply chains. Jaishankar also met European Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation Ekaterina Zaharieva to advance collaboration in clean energy technologies, innovation



hubs, startups and India's association with Horizon Europe.

Separate talks with European Commissioner Jozef Sikela focused on connectivity, the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor and green shipping, while discussions with European Council President Antonio Costa underscored the growing strategic character of India-European Union ties following progress on the proposed Free Trade Agreement, security cooperation and technology partnerships.

India and Ghana expand maritime partnership with focus on ports and seafarer welfare

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Ghana are strengthening their longstanding partnership by expanding cooperation in the maritime sector, with a renewed focus on ports, shipping and the welfare of Indian seafarers. During meetings held last week in Accra, India's High Commissioner-designate to Ghana, Surinder Bhagat, met the leadership of the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority and the Ghana Maritime Authority to discuss deeper collaboration in port development, maritime safety and economic engagement. The two sides also reviewed measures to ensure the safety and well-being of Indian crew members operating in Ghanaian waters and agreed to enhance coordination between maritime authorities. The discussions reaffirmed both countries' commitment to strengthening bilateral



maritime cooperation while building on decades of close diplomatic ties. India established diplomatic relations with Ghana immediately after the country's independence in 1957, and both nations continue to expand cooperation across multiple sectors.

India and Germany deepen strategic partnership with focus on trade, defense and parliamentary ties

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Germany are expanding their strategic partnership through stronger political engagement, parliamentary exchanges and closer economic cooperation. During meetings held on Thursday and Friday in Berlin, Indian Ambassador Ajit Gupte met Bundestag members Dirk Wiese and Metin Hakverdi to discuss enhancing collaboration in trade, defense, security and partnerships between Indian states and German federal states.

The discussions also explored opportunities arising from the recently concluded India-European Union Free Trade Agreement. The meetings followed talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on the sidelines of the Group of Seven Summit last month, where both leaders reviewed progress in bilateral ties. As India and Germany celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations this year,



they reaffirmed their commitment to expanding cooperation in investment, technology, green development, education, mobility and defense. Merz also invited Modi to attend the eighth India-Germany Intergovernmental Consultations later this year.

Slovakia backs India's United Nations Security Council bid as both nations deepen strategic ties

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Slovakia has reaffirmed its support for India's candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for the 2028-29 term following a meeting between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Slovak Foreign Minister Juraj Blonar in New York. The ministers discussed strengthening bilateral ties, reforming the United Nations Security Council, effective multilateralism and preparations for Slovakia's upcoming Visegrad Group presidency. Slovakia's Ambassador to India, Robert Maxian, said the mutual endorsement of each country's Security Council candidacy reflects the growing trust and strategic partnership between the two nations.

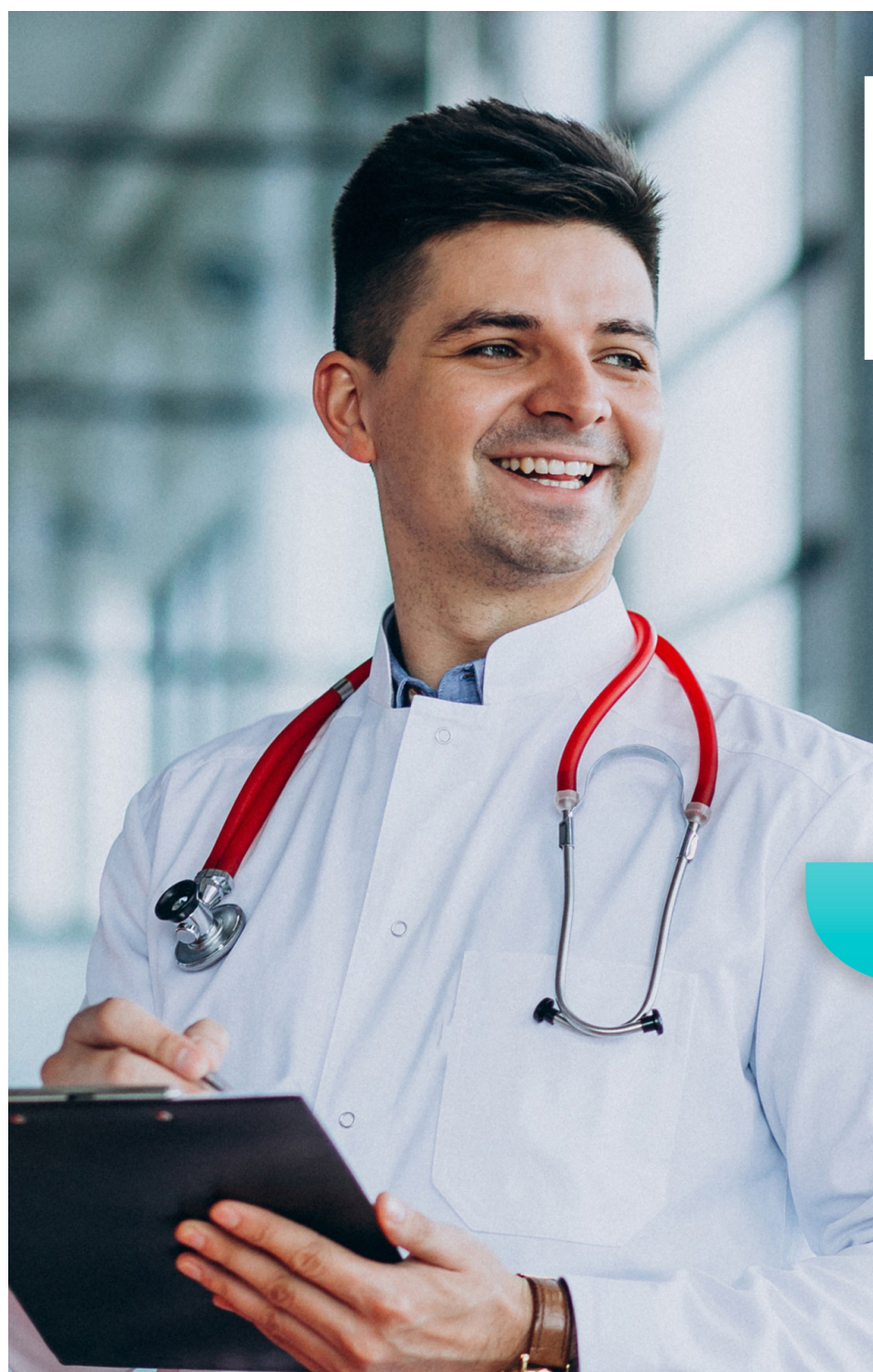
The meeting follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Slovakia last month, where he held talks with Prime Minister Robert Fico and President Peter Pellegrini on expanding cooperation across trade, investment and other strategic sectors. India recently launched its campaign for the 2028-29 Security Council election, advocating a more representative and effective global body.

INS Sudarshini showcases India's maritime heritage at landmark United States sailing event



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian Naval sail training ship INS Sudarshini has highlighted India's growing maritime diplomacy by participating in SAIL Boston 250, an international event commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States' independence. During a reception aboard the vessel on Tuesday, India's Consulate General in Boston said the ship symbolizes India's rich maritime heritage, indigenous shipbuilding capabilities and expanding maritime cooperation with the United States. INS Sudarshini is the only naval tall ship from Asia and the wider Indian Ocean region participating in the event after completing a five-and-a-half-month voyage to the United States East Coast, including an 18-day continuous sailing stretch under wind power. Built entirely in India, the vessel serves as a training platform for Indian Naval cadets while also promoting India's maritime traditions and strengthening naval engagement with partner countries.

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House approves bill to make daylight saving time permanent across the United States

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The House of Representatives voted Tuesday to approve legislation that would make daylight saving time permanent nationwide, ending the twice-yearly clock changes observed across most of the United States. The Sunshine Protection Act passed by a bipartisan vote of 308 to 117 and now heads to the Senate, where similar legislation passed unanimously in 2022 but did not become law. Supporters said eliminating seasonal clock changes would reduce disruptions for families, businesses and workers, while opponents argued permanent daylight saving time could leave many Americans traveling to work or school before sunrise during winter months. The White House has endorsed the measure, improving its prospects compared with previous years, although Senate approval remains necessary before the legislation can reach President Donald Trump's desk.

Health officials investigate Taco Bell lettuce supplier as parasite outbreak spreads across four states



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Federal and state health officials are investigating whether iceberg lettuce supplied to Taco Bell restaurants is the source of a multistate cyclosporiasis outbreak that has sickened more than 1,600 people across the United States. Taco Bell said Thursday it voluntarily removed lettuce from one supplier in selected states and is replacing the product nationwide as a precaution, although no official recall has been issued. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed 1,645 infections and 145 hospitalizations, with thousands of additional reports under review. Investigators have linked cases in Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky and expect the outbreak to continue through August while officials work to identify the exact source of contamination.

Century-old water main rupture floods West Hollywood and disrupts traffic across Sunset Boulevard

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A century-old water main burst beneath Sunset Boulevard early Thursday, sending thousands of gallons of water into the streets, opening a large sinkhole and disrupting traffic across West Hollywood. Officials said no injuries or evacuations were reported, and drinking water remained safe for nearby residents. The rupture damaged roads, flooded businesses and partially submerged buses parked at a nearby transit facility. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power said crews are working to isolate the damaged pipeline and determine what caused the failure but have not estimated when repairs will be completed. Mayor Karen Bass said the incident underscores the need for major investment to modernize the region's aging water infrastructure.

Trump administration revives public charge rule that could affect green card eligibility for benefit recipients

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration has revived the "public charge" rule, restoring a policy that could make it more difficult for some immigrants who receive public benefits to obtain permanent residency in the United States. The rule appeared in the Federal Register on Thursday, will be formally published on Monday and is scheduled to take effect on September 18. It reinstates a policy first implemented in 2020 during President Donald Trump's first term before it was rescinded by former President Joe Biden in 2021. Under the revised rule, immigration officers will make case-by-case determinations of whether applicants are likely to become a public charge rather than relying on a fixed list of benefits.

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services said the policy reinforces self-reliance and protects public resources. Immigrant advocates and public health experts criticized the move, arguing it could discourage eligible immigrants and mixed-status families from seeking healthcare, food assistance and housing support because of fears it could jeopardize their immigration status. Research cited by advocacy groups suggests the policy's broader impact stems from fear of using public benefits rather than large numbers of green card denials.



Todd Blanche meets Jeffrey Epstein accusers after Republican senator ties confirmation support to victim outreach

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche met on Thursday with several accusers of convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein after Republican Senator Thom Tillis said the meeting was necessary before he would support Blanche's nomination to lead the Justice Department. Blanche said he urged the women to share any new evidence with the Federal Bureau of Investigation but acknowledged he could not promise additional prosecutions because investigators currently lack sufficient evidence against others linked to Epstein.

Following the meeting, accuser Dani Bensky criticized Blanche, saying he failed to offer a credible plan to pursue accountability beyond Epstein and longtime associate Ghislaine Maxwell, who was convicted of recruiting girls for Epstein's abuse. Tillis later praised Blanche for meeting with the victims.

During his Senate confirmation hearing on Wednesday, Blanche also defended the Justice Department's handling of the Epstein files, accepted responsibility for document release errors and said officials acted quickly to correct mistakes while protecting victims' identities.



House Republicans advance Trump budget plan for Iran conflict funding and election overhaul

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

House Republicans on Thursday approved a budget resolution advancing President Donald Trump's legislative priorities, including funding tied to the conflict with Iran, agricultural assistance and sweeping election changes ahead of the November midterm elections. The House Budget Committee approved the \$95 billion proposal along party lines, clearing it for consideration by the full House as early as next week.

If approved under the budget reconciliation process, Republicans could bypass the Senate's usual sixty-vote threshold. The proposal includes funding for defense, intelligence and agriculture, along with incentives for states to adopt stricter voter identification requirements and proof of citizenship for voter registration under Trump's priority election proposal, the SAVE America Act. Democrats criticized the measure, arguing it ignores inflation,

lacks spending offsets and uses a budget procedure to finance military operations and election changes. Republican leaders also face uncertainty over whether the package can secure enough support in the House and satisfy Senate reconciliation rules before becoming law.



White House launches artificial intelligence cyber program to strengthen protection of critical infrastructure

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The White House on Wednesday unveiled Gold Eagle, a new artificial intelligence-driven cybersecurity initiative designed to identify and address vulnerabilities across critical United States infrastructure more quickly. The program brings together federal agencies, private companies and open-source software partners to detect cyber threats, prioritize risks and coordinate faster responses.

Administration officials said Gold Eagle was established under President Donald Trump's executive order promoting artificial intelligence innovation and security. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said the initiative will use advanced artificial intelligence tools to help protect financial systems, government networks and other essential infrastructure.

Officials said the program has already begun evaluating vulnerabilities and coordinating remediation efforts with industry partners.

Indian Consulate in Boston warns diaspora about rise in impersonation scams



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Consulate General of India in Boston has warned members of the Indian community about a growing number of scams involving callers posing as consular officials, police officers and other law enforcement authorities. In an advisory issued on Wednesday, the mission said fraudsters are using spoofed phone numbers and fabricated legal threats to pressure victims into sharing personal information or transferring money. Scammers have falsely claimed that victims are linked to criminal investigations, passport problems or money laundering cases and have demanded immediate action. The Consulate said it never requests payments or sensitive personal information by phone and urged people to end suspicious calls immediately and report them to local law enforcement and the mission.

Trump Media faces ethics questions over plan to sell early access to Truth Social posts

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Trump Media and Technology Group is facing ethics scrutiny after announcing plans to sell high-speed access to posts on Truth Social, a move critics say could allow investors to profit from President Donald Trump's market-moving statements before the broader public sees them.

The new subscription service, called Truth PSI, will provide institutional clients with millisecond access to posts from leading accounts on the platform when it launches next month. The company did not say whether Trump's posts would be included or disclose pricing. Ethics experts argued the proposal raises conflict-of-interest concerns because Trump is the company's largest shareholder and regularly uses Truth Social to announce policy decisions that can influence financial markets, including tariffs, immigration and foreign policy.

Internal Revenue Service to automatically waive penalties for eligible taxpayers under new relief program

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Internal Revenue Service said it will begin phasing in a new penalty relief system this summer that will automatically waive certain penalties for taxpayers with a strong record of filing returns and paying taxes on time. Under the Automatic Exemption from Penalty program, taxpayers who have remained compliant for the previous three years, or filed 12 consecutive quarterly returns on time, will receive relief without submitting a request. The program applies to eligible 2025 tax returns and 2026 quarterly returns and replaces the agency's long-standing First Time Abate process, which required taxpayers to seek relief after penalties had been assessed. Taxpayers who do not qualify may still request relief if delays were caused by circumstances such as natural disasters, serious illness or other reasonable causes reviewed individually by the agency.

New York halts large data center projects while regulators assess energy and environmental impacts

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New York Governor Kathy Hochul signed an executive order on Monday imposing the nation's first statewide moratorium on the construction and expansion of large data centers while regulators evaluate their impact on electricity demand, water use and the environment. The order temporarily halts projects requiring 50 megawatts or more of power for up to one year and directs state agencies to study the industry's effect on the electric grid before recommending new regulations. Hochul said safeguards are needed as artificial intelligence data centers rapidly expand across the state. Technology companies argue the facilities create jobs and do not significantly increase electricity costs, while critics, including some local officials, said statewide restrictions could hinder economic development and should instead be determined by local governments.

United States television networks split over broadcasting Trump's election-focused White House speech

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Major United States television networks took sharply different approaches to President Donald Trump's White House address on Thursday, which focused on election integrity, voter fraud allegations and his long-running claims about the 2020 presidential election. Fox News, CBS and MS Now carried most or all of the speech live, while CNN, NBC and ABC declined to air it across their primary networks, citing Trump's well-documented history of making false claims about the 2020 election. CNN instead provided live analysis and fact-checking, while NBC aired a recap after the address. During the speech, Trump again alleged widespread election fraud without providing evidence, accused China of attempting to interfere in United



States elections and criticized major news organizations for refusing to carry his remarks live. ABC and NBC streamed the address on their digital platforms, while several local ABC affiliates chose to air it, highlighting the divide among broadcasters over covering politically contentious presidential addresses.

Stephen Miller honors Lindsey Graham, credits senator with advancing Trump's agenda in Congress

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller on Tuesday paid an emotional tribute to the late Senator Lindsey Graham, describing the South Carolina Republican as one of President Donald Trump's closest allies in Congress and crediting him with helping advance many of the administration's legislative priorities. Speaking at the White House, Miller said Graham became one of Trump's most dependable supporters during the president's second term, working closely with the administration on border security, immigration, budget policy and other key initiatives. He praised Graham's ability to build support in the Senate, calling him one of the chamber's most effective lawmakers



and saying his greatest legacy would be his role in helping move the president's agenda through Congress. Miller also reflected on their personal friendship, saying the two developed a close working relationship during Trump's 2024 campaign and the transition into office.

Ro Khanna calls for investigation after alleging Israeli settlers detained United States delegation in the West Bank

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian American Congressman Ro Khanna on Sunday called for an investigation after alleging that armed Israeli settlers detained a United States delegation, including American citizens, during a visit to the occupied West Bank. Speaking to NBC News, the California Democrat said settlers carrying rifles blocked the group's vehicle and detained them for about 20 minutes before Israeli Defense Forces soldiers arrived. Khanna alleged the

soldiers sided with the settlers and continued blocking the delegation until the United States Embassy intervened, allowing them to leave about 75 minutes after the incident began. The Israeli military disputed Khanna's account, saying its troops quickly dispersed the settlers and reopened the road without participating in the detention. Khanna rejected that explanation and urged Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to investigate both the settlers and the soldiers involved, saying security camera footage could establish what occurred.

Legionnaires' disease outbreak grows on Manhattan's Upper East Side as cooling towers test positive

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New York City health officials said Tuesday that Legionnaires' disease cases linked to Manhattan's Upper East Side had risen to 63, with 12 people hospitalized and no deaths reported.

Officials identified dozens of cooling towers that tested positive for Legionella bacteria and ordered building owners to immediately drain, clean and disinfect the systems. The outbreak

is concentrated in the Yorkville and Carnegie Hill neighborhoods, where health authorities urged residents and recent visitors experiencing fever, cough or breathing difficulties to seek medical attention.

Officials stressed the outbreak is not linked to building plumbing systems but to contaminated mist from cooling towers. Legionnaires' disease is a severe form of pneumonia that can be treated with antibiotics, although it poses greater risks for older adults and people with weakened immune systems.

United States Marshals arrest 126 registered sex offenders during month-long Florida enforcement operation

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Marshals Service said Monday that a month-long operation in Florida's Osceola County resulted in the arrest of 126 registered sex offenders for registration violations and other crimes. Operation Silver Spur, conducted throughout June with local law enforcement, also included compliance checks on 231 registered offenders and led to the arrest of two additional people on unrelated criminal charges. Officials said four offenders were arrested twice on separate offenses and two out-of-state fugitives were taken into custody. Investigators also announced child exploitation charges against one suspect and additional charges against another accused of violating registration requirements through an undisclosed social media account.

Eight missing children rescued during Kansas City anti-trafficking operation linked to World Cup security efforts

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Department of Homeland Security said Sunday that eight missing children were rescued during a human trafficking operation in Kansas City conducted while the city hosted FIFA World Cup matches. Missouri Governor Mike Kehoe said the operation also resulted in the arrest of five migrants from Guatemala and Mexico and targeted individuals seeking to exploit children during the international tournament. Homeland Security Investigations, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and local law enforcement participated in the operation, which focused on disrupting trafficking networks and identifying sexual predators. Authorities had announced before the tournament that additional personnel would be deployed to protect visitors and combat human trafficking. Federal officials said the effort highlighted coordinated law enforcement measures designed to enhance public safety during major international sporting events.

Justice Department creates trade fraud unit to target tariff evasion, forced labor and sanctions violations

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Department of Justice announced Monday the creation of a new Global Trade and Commerce Enforcement Section to investigate criminal trade offenses, including customs fraud, tariff evasion, smuggling, forced labor and sanctions violations. The unit will operate within the National Fraud Enforcement Division and work closely with the interagency Trade Fraud Task Force established in 2025. Officials said the new section will focus on prosecuting schemes involving false import documents, supply chain abuses and efforts to evade trade restrictions, particularly those linked to forced labor and foreign adversaries. The Justice Department said the task force has already recovered, forfeited or charged more than \$1 billion through civil and criminal enforcement actions. Officials said the initiative reinforces the administration's effort to strengthen trade enforcement and protect American industries.

Indian engineer confirmed dead after Strait of Hormuz vessel attack



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian marine engineer Heramb Karmarkar, who had been reported missing after an attack on the merchant vessel GFS Galaxy near the Strait of Hormuz, has been confirmed dead, his family said on Wednesday. Karmarkar, 30, was among 11 Indian nationals aboard the Cyprus-flagged vessel when it came under attack off the coast of Oman on Sunday. While 10 crew members were rescued, Karmarkar remained unaccounted for until his family received confirmation of his death.

India has condemned the attack on commercial shipping in the region and said its Embassy in Oman continues to coordinate with Omani authorities and other stakeholders. Karmarkar's family has appealed to the government to ensure his body is brought back to India with dignity. The attack has renewed concerns over the safety of Indian seafarers, who form one of the world's largest maritime workforces and are increasingly exposed to security risks in conflict-prone international shipping routes.

India and Australia deepen cultural ties through cross-border art collaboration



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A new exhibition bringing together Australian sculptor Elliot Bastianon and Punjab master coppersmith Hari Krishan is highlighting the growing cultural partnership between India and Australia while helping preserve one of India's oldest metalworking traditions. Titled Analogue and Alchemy, the exhibition combines contemporary sculptural techniques with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization recognized Thathera craft of handcrafted copper and brass work from Punjab.

The collaboration blends modern artistic expression with traditional skills that have been passed down through generations for more than 200 years, demonstrating how international partnerships can help safeguard endangered cultural practices. The Australian High Commission in India described the exhibition as an example of innovation emerging from the intersection of tradition and modernity while strengthening people-to-people ties between the two countries. Beyond showcasing artistic excellence, the project provides global visibility for Indian artisans and reinforces the importance of preserving heritage crafts through international collaboration, creating new opportunities for cultural exchange and creative innovation.

Hindu groups participate in White House dialogue on faith and religious freedom

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Representatives of two leading Hindu organizations in the United States participated in a White House Faith Office dialogue on Sunday, joining religious leaders from across the country to discuss issues affecting faith communities. Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh United States and BAPS Public Affairs represented Hindu Americans during the discussions, which focused on religious freedom, community partnerships and public policy.

Both organizations welcomed the opportunity to engage directly with the administration and said the meeting reflected a shared commitment to promoting the well-being of all Americans while ensuring that Hindu voices are included in national conversations on faith. White House Faith Office Director Jennifer Korn thanked participants following the meeting and



reaffirmed the administration's commitment to engaging diverse religious communities. The dialogue marked another step in the growing visibility of Hindu Americans in public life, highlighting the increasing role of the Indian diaspora in contributing to civic engagement, interfaith cooperation and policy discussions in the United States.

Soumya Swaminathan inducted into Royal Society, marking milestone for Indian science

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Leading Indian scientist Dr. Soumya Swaminathan was formally inducted as a Fellow of the Royal Society of London on Saturday, joining one of the world's oldest and most prestigious scientific academies. The milestone carries special significance as she signed the same membership register that bears the signature of her father, renowned agricultural scientist and Bharat Ratna M. S. Swaminathan, alongside entries dating back to legendary physicist Isaac Newton.

Swaminathan, a former Chief Scientist at the World Health Organization and former Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research, described the occasion as an honor and reflected on meeting fellow scientists from the 2026 cohort while revisiting the page her father signed in 1973. Elected to the fellowship in May, she became only the second Indian



woman scientist to receive the distinction in the Royal Society's more than 360-year history, following vaccinologist Gagandeep Kang in 2019. Currently serving as Principal Advisor to India's National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, Swaminathan continues to shape public health policy, with her recognition highlighting India's growing influence in global scientific research and inspiring a new generation of researchers at home and across the Indian diaspora.

Sikh truckers in Australia report rising workplace racism and discrimination

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-origin Sikh truck drivers in Australia are raising concerns over repeated incidents of racism, verbal abuse and threats while working in the country's freight industry, according to a report by Australian Broadcasting Corporation News. Drivers described being subjected to racial slurs, mocked for wearing turbans and, in some cases, threatened with violence despite Australia's growing reliance on migrant workers to address a shortage of heavy vehicle drivers.

The report cited truck drivers who said many migrant workers now avoid using citizens band radio channels because of frequent racist abuse. Australia's Human Rights Commission told Australian Broadcasting Corporation News it has received complaints from people connected to the trucking sector, including Indian and Sikh workers, since 2023. Experts said racism can affect drivers' concentration and



decision-making in an already demanding profession while also discouraging victims from reporting incidents because of language barriers and concerns that complaints may not lead to meaningful action. Community advocates say the experiences underscore the need for stronger workplace protections and greater awareness, particularly as Indian migrants continue to play a vital role in Australia's transport and logistics industry.

Indian man from Punjab dies in United States months after reaching through illegal migration route

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 28-year-old man from Punjab's Ferozepur district died in the United States after falling ill just months after arriving through the illegal "donkey route." Mandeep Singh, a resident of Muse Wala village, had spent nearly a year traveling through multiple countries before reaching the U.S. His family had sold four acres of farmland and spent about Rs 50 lakh to finance the journey. According to relatives, he developed a prolonged fever and cough before his condition worsened, and he died while undergoing treatment at a hospital. His family has appealed to the Indian and Punjab governments for assistance in bringing his body home.

Hyderabad student found dead in Finland after two months of disappearance

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An 18-year-old student from Hyderabad who had been missing in Finland for more than two months has been found dead after authorities recovered his body from the sea in Helsinki. Manideep Reddy, who was studying Software and Systems Engineering at Lappeenranta-Lahti University of Technology, disappeared in May after traveling to Helsinki. His family, informed by the Indian Embassy in Finland, has questioned the circumstances surrounding his death and demanded a thorough investigation. They have also sought assistance from the Indian government to travel to Finland, claiming communication from Finnish authorities stopped weeks after the student went missing.

Community raises funds to repatriate bodies of two Punjab youths who drowned in Canada



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Friends, relatives and members of the Punjabi community have launched fundraising campaigns in India and Canada to bring home the bodies of two Punjab youths who drowned in Montreal's Lachine Canal. Lovepreet Singh from Barnala reportedly jumped into the canal to rescue Yograj Singh from Amritsar after he accidentally fell into the water, but both drowned. Local residents have raised around Rs 2.5 lakh, while supporters in Canada have collected nearly 28,500 Canadian dollars toward repatriation expenses. The families have thanked the community for coming together to ensure the two men receive their final rites in Punjab.

Indian-origin teenager earns top leadership role in United States Navy youth program



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Seventeen-year-old Indian-origin student Riddhi Chauhan has been named Battalion Commanding Officer of the Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Benjamin N. Cardozo High School in New York, becoming the highest-ranking student responsible for leading nearly 300 cadets. She is also preparing to join the Naval Academy Preparatory School, a pathway to the United States Naval Academy. Chauhan's leadership journey has included roles as Academic Commander, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Commander, Platoon Leader and Inspection Commander. She helped her school's academic team achieve national success and led the development of the unit's first underwater robotics project.

She credits her leadership philosophy to the values of service, discipline and community instilled through her family and youth programs. Her achievement reflects the growing contributions of Indian-origin youth to public service and leadership in the United States, while serving as an inspiration for young members of the Indian diaspora pursuing careers in the armed forces and civic leadership.

Two Indian nationals arrested in Nepal during anti-drug operation



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nepal Police arrested two Indian nationals and one Nepali citizen during an anti-drug operation in Rupandehi district, authorities said. The suspects were identified as Iqbal Khan and Ram Dayal Sharma from India, along with a Nepali national. Police said one of the Indian suspects allegedly opened fire during the raid, prompting officers to return fire and injure him in the leg before taking him into custody. Authorities said heroin, a pistol and ammunition were recovered during the operation. The injured suspect is undergoing treatment at a provincial hospital, while police continue investigating the alleged drug trafficking network.

World Punjabi Organisation supports Prime Minister Modi's diaspora outreach in Australia and New Zealand

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

The World Punjabi Organisation played a significant supporting role in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent community engagements in Australia and New Zealand, helping strengthen outreach to the Indian diaspora through large public events and media initiatives. Led by its International President Vikramjit Singh Sahney, the organization coordinated local chapters and volunteers while facilitating newspaper campaigns that promoted the Prime Minister's visits and encouraged wider community participation.

Its members helped organize the "Melbourne Meets Modi" event at Marvel Stadium, attended by nearly 30,000 members of the Indian diaspora, and the "Kia Ora Modi" reception in Auckland, both of which celebrated India's growing ties with overseas communities. Sahney said the visit also advanced cooperation in trade, investment, technology and critical minerals while reinforcing people-to-



people connections. Beyond the diplomatic outcomes, the events reflected the increasing influence of the Indian diaspora in Australia and New Zealand, where Punjabi communities continue to make significant economic, cultural and social contributions.

The organization's involvement highlighted the growing role of diaspora groups in strengthening India's global engagement and fostering deeper bilateral relationships.

Hyderabad man critically injured in suspected hate crime at Utah mall

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

A 37-year-old man from Hyderabad remains in critical condition after he was allegedly targeted in a stabbing attack at a shopping mall in West Valley City, Utah, on Sunday. According to information received by his family, Syed Sohailuddin was working at a kiosk when the suspect allegedly asked if he was Muslim before stabbing him multiple times. Police identified the suspect as 48-year-old Peter Michael Larsen, who was restrained by bystanders before officers arrived. Authorities said he allegedly admitted targeting the victim because of his religion.

Sohailuddin remains hospitalized while his family in Hyderabad has appealed to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar



to help secure emergency visas and provide consular assistance. Community leader Amjed Ullah Khan has also urged the Indian Embassy in Washington to coordinate with United States authorities and extend support to the injured Indian national and his family.

Indian-origin astronaut Anil Menon begins first mission aboard International Space Station

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Indian-origin National Aeronautics and Space Administration astronaut Anil Menon safely arrived at the International Space Station on Tuesday after launching aboard Russia's Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft, marking the start of his first space mission. Menon, who is serving on an eight-month expedition, will conduct scientific research and technology demonstrations focused on advancing human space exploration and developing innovations with applications on Earth.

His work will include experiments on semiconductor crystal manufacturing, artificial intelligence-assisted medical imaging, blood circulation in microgravity and bioprinting technologies that could support future missions to the Moon and Mars. A board-certified emergency physician and colonel in the United States Space Force, Menon's achievement has been widely celebrated by the Indian diaspora



and scientific community, reflecting the growing contributions of Indian-origin professionals to global space exploration.

His mission also underscores the expanding role of scientists of Indian heritage in shaping cutting-edge research while inspiring aspiring engineers, doctors and researchers across India and around the world.

Indian origin techie raises \$25 million for health care artificial intelligence startup

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian origin entrepreneur Nishith Khandwala has raised \$25 million in Series B funding for his health care artificial intelligence startup, Bunkerhill Health, increasing the company's total funding to \$55 million. The funding round, announced on Thursday, was led by Khosla Ventures, with participation from Sequoia Capital, Felicis Ventures, Optum Ventures and Y Combinator.

Founded in 2019 by Khandwala and David Eng, Bunkerhill Health developed from a Stanford University project inspired by Khandwala's father suffering a heart attack after warning signs on an earlier scan were reportedly overlooked.

The company's Carebricks platform helps hospitals deploy artificial intelligence tools to improve clinical care, streamline operations and reduce administrative workloads. The platform is now used by 15 United States health systems, including Cleveland Clinic, Mayo Clinic, Intermountain Health and the University of Texas Medical Branch.

Bunkerhill has also secured multiple Food and Drug Administration clearances for its imaging algorithms and recently obtained a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services reimbursement pathway.

Indian origin man admits manslaughter in fatal west London highway crash



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian origin man has pleaded guilty to multiple charges, including two counts of manslaughter, after a fatal collision on the M4 highway in west London claimed the lives of a couple in their sixties. Maninder Singh Brar, 28, entered the guilty pleas at Isleworth Crown Court on Wednesday.

According to the Metropolitan Police, Brar was driving a black BMW in Hillingdon when it collided with a white Volkswagen Golf before he left the scene. Mohammad Hagila, 63, died at the scene, while his wife, Dil Jan Hagila, 62, later died in the hospital from her injuries. A 29-year-old man sustained injuries that were not considered life threatening. Brar also pleaded guilty to causing death while uninsured, causing serious injury by dangerous driving, handling stolen goods and failing to stop after the collision. He was arrested days after the crash and is scheduled to be sentenced on Saturday, August 23.



Australia presses Laos for tougher charges over backpackers' methanol deaths

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australia summoned Laos' ambassador on Friday, expressing frustration that authorities are not pursuing more serious charges over the 2024 methanol poisoning deaths of Australian teenagers Holly Bowles and Bianca Jones. The two 19-year-olds died after drinking contaminated alcohol in the tourist town of Vang Vieng, where four other foreign travelers also lost their lives. Foreign Minister Penny Wong said the proposed charges do not reflect the gravity of the tragedy and vowed to raise the issue with her Lao counterpart during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations foreign ministers' meeting next week in Manila. Australian media reported that the alleged offenders could face penalties of up to one year in prison and a modest fine.

Russian regions report casualties as Ukraine intensifies strikes on energy infrastructure

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russian authorities said on Thursday that Ukrainian drone and rocket attacks killed at least three people and injured several others across multiple regions overnight, as Kyiv continued targeting Russia's energy infrastructure.

One man was killed and four people were injured in the Yaroslavl region, where officials said 19 drones were intercepted near an area that includes a major oil refinery. Authorities also reported casualties after a drone strike on Engels in the Saratov region, while a rocket attack in the Bryansk region killed a 15-year-old girl and her grandmother.

Ukraine says its long-range strikes are intended to reduce oil revenues funding Russia's war, while Russia accused Ukraine of targeting civilians.

Azerbaijan says lasting peace with Armenia depends on constitutional changes

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Azerbaijan said on Thursday it believes it is living in a period of "real peace" with Armenia but insisted that a final peace agreement cannot be signed until Armenia removes what Baku considers territorial claims from its constitution.

Hikmet Hajiyev, a senior foreign policy adviser to President Ilham Aliyev, said relations between the two countries have improved, with direct contacts increasing and trade gradually resuming after decades of conflict.

He said Azerbaijan remains encouraged by Armenia's plans to revise its constitution but wants the disputed provisions formally removed before signing a final agreement.

Hajiyev also said Azerbaijan had received positive signals that construction on the proposed United States-backed regional transport corridor could begin this autumn.

United States renews pressure on Cuba to free political prisoners five years after mass protests

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

The United States renewed its call on Sunday for Cuba to release all political prisoners as Secretary of State Marco Rubio marked the fifth anniversary of the anti-government demonstrations that swept the island in 2021. Rubio said thousands of Cubans had taken to the streets demanding greater freedoms, economic opportunity and political change before the Communist government responded with arrests and force. He said hundreds of people detained during the protests remain imprisoned and urged Havana to release them immediately.

Rubio also accused Cuba's leadership of deepening the country's economic crisis while refusing meaningful political and economic reforms. He said the Trump



administration has offered humanitarian assistance, reconstruction support and the prospect of improved bilateral ties if Cuba undertakes reforms. Rubio also described Cuba as a national security concern because of its alleged support for hostile foreign actors and said Washington would continue using diplomatic and economic measures to press for change.

New Zealand's prime minister says Khalistan issue will not derail growing partnership with India

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon said Saturday that the Khalistan issue would not undermine his country's expanding relationship with India, while stressing that authorities would take firm action against threats, intimidation and violence linked to extremist activities. Speaking in an interview cited by Khalsa Vox, Luxon said New Zealand remains committed to protecting freedom of expression but would not tolerate criminal behavior. He acknowledged the pain and suffering caused by the Khalistan movement in India and emphasized that a small group of activists does not represent New Zealand's wider Sikh community. His remarks came as India and New Zealand



deepen cooperation in trade, defense, education, technology and maritime security following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit. During the visit, the two countries signed agreements across multiple sectors and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening economic and strategic ties, including advancing negotiations on a bilateral free trade agreement.

Nigeria completes evacuation of citizens from South Africa after xenophobic attacks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nigeria said on Thursday it had completed the voluntary evacuation of 1,490 citizens from South Africa following a wave of xenophobic attacks targeting foreign nationals. The latest flight brought 305 Nigerians and two government officials from Johannesburg to Lagos, marking the fifth evacuation operation. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Kimiebi

Ebienfa said the repatriation followed discussions with South African authorities over growing security concerns. Nigeria has strongly condemned attacks on its citizens, including the reported deaths of at least two Nigerians allegedly assaulted by security officials. While reaffirming the importance of its relationship with South Africa, Abuja said xenophobia, racial intolerance and violence against Nigerians remain unacceptable and called for stronger protection of foreign nationals.

United Kingdom braces for heavy holiday traffic as Dover prepares for European Union border control delays

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Millions of motorists are expected to travel across the United Kingdom this weekend as the summer holiday season begins, with authorities warning of significant congestion around the Port of Dover because of new European Union border procedures. Around 7,500 vehicles are expected to pass through Dover on Friday and about 10,000 on Saturday. French border officers will manually register non-European Union travelers under the new

Entry/Exit System after software problems delayed the launch of automated processing facilities. While biometric checks will not be carried out this summer, officials warned that creating traveler records could still slow processing. Motoring groups expect one of the busiest domestic travel weekends since 2022, with many families choosing vacations within the United Kingdom because of concerns about higher airfares, flight disruptions, heatwaves and potential delays at European Union borders. Heathrow Airport also expects Friday to be one of its busiest travel days of the summer.

Syria says it intercepted weapons shipment allegedly bound for Hezbollah

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Syrian authorities said on Thursday they intercepted a shipment of advanced weapons, including rockets and drones, hidden inside an oil tanker truck crossing from Iraq, alleging the cargo was destined for Hezbollah. Officials said customs officers uncovered the weapons during an inspection at the Al-Tanf border crossing before the vehicle continued toward the coastal city of Baniyas. Iraq announced it would establish a high-level committee to investigate the attempted smuggling and coordinate with Syrian authorities to strengthen border security. Hezbollah denied any involvement, calling the allegations fabricated. The seizure comes as Iraq expands fuel exports through Syria and regional governments increase efforts to curb cross-border weapons trafficking.

France shuts three nuclear reactors as heatwave pushes river temperatures higher

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

France temporarily shut down three nuclear reactors and reduced output at eight others on Sunday as soaring temperatures raised river water temperatures beyond environmental operating limits. State-owned utility Electricite de France said the measures were necessary to comply with regulations governing thermal discharges and protect river ecosystems. High water temperatures reduce the ability of nuclear plants to use river water for cooling, forcing operators to scale back production during extreme heat. Meteo-France placed dozens of departments under its highest heat alert, with temperatures reaching up to 41 degrees Celsius in some areas. Authorities also reported a sharp rise in drowning deaths as the prolonged heatwave continued across much of the country.

Rights group urges United Nations to recognize Bangladesh's 1971 atrocities as genocide

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Human Rights Without Frontiers called on the United Nations Human Rights Council to recognize the 1971 atrocities in Bangladesh as genocide, arguing that the systematic targeting of Hindus and other religious minorities has not received adequate international recognition. During the council's recent session in Geneva, the Belgium-based organization said acknowledging the religious dimension of the violence would strengthen accountability, reinforce protections for vulnerable communities and help prevent future identity-based persecution.

The group also argued that formal recognition would support education, documentation and memorialization efforts within Bangladesh while contributing to a stronger international human rights framework. The appeal reflects the organization's position and does not represent an official United Nations determination.

Africa Centers for Disease Control calls for stronger protection of Ebola response workers

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention called on Sunday for stronger protections for frontline health workers after a United States humanitarian worker assisting the Bundibugyo Ebola response in the Democratic Republic of the Congo tested positive for the virus. Authorities have launched contact tracing and an investigation into the source of the infection, which occurred in Bunia, the outbreak's epicenter. According to the agency, at least 112 healthcare workers have been infected and 35 have died during the outbreak. Director General Jean Kaseya urged organizations to strengthen infection prevention, provide protective equipment and improve worker safety. Kaseya and World Health Organization Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus are scheduled to visit Bunia next weekend.

Bangladesh measles outbreak claims five more lives as health system faces dengue threat

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bangladesh reported five more suspected measles deaths on Sunday, raising the combined total of confirmed and suspected fatalities to 758, according to the Directorate General of Health Services. Health authorities also recorded 879 new suspected infections, bringing the nationwide total to more than 111,000 cases since mid-March, while confirmed infections reached 13,500. More than 94,000 patients have been hospitalized, with over 90,000 recovering. Health experts warned that rising dengue infections during the monsoon season could place additional strain on hospitals already overwhelmed by measles cases. They urged authorities to strengthen mosquito control measures, expand temporary treatment facilities and establish dedicated dengue units to reduce pressure on the healthcare system.

Trump administration launches global campaign against International Criminal Court

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration announced on Monday a government-wide campaign to counter the International Criminal Court, arguing the tribunal threatens United States sovereignty by claiming authority over American officials and military personnel. State Department officials said Washington is considering sanctions, visa restrictions and diplomatic measures aimed at reducing international support for the court. The administration is also urging countries that rely on United States security cooperation to reject the court's jurisdiction over Americans. The United States has never joined the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court and maintains that the tribunal has no authority to prosecute United States citizens without its consent.

Spanish prime minister's wife to face jury trial in influence peddling and embezzlement case

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez's wife, Begoña Gómez, will stand trial before a citizen jury on charges of influence peddling and embezzlement after a Madrid court ruled on Thursday to proceed with most of the case against her. The court dismissed a separate corruption in business charge and lifted travel restrictions, including a passport surrender order, but rejected Gómez's request to dismiss the remaining charges, which she denies. State prosecutors had also sought to have the case dropped, arguing it stemmed from a complaint filed by far-right groups accusing Gómez of using her position to secure business contracts. Sánchez's office again described the case as politically motivated and



maintained that Gómez is innocent. In Spain, jury trials are used for a limited number of offenses, including influence peddling, and conviction rates have remained close to 90 percent in recent years.

Italy's lower house approves Meloni's disputed election reform

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Italy's lower house of Parliament approved Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's proposed electoral reform on Thursday, advancing legislation that supporters say will provide stable governments but critics argue could strengthen the ruling coalition ahead of the 2027 election. The bill would replace the current mixed electoral system with full proportional representation while

awarding a seat bonus to coalitions winning more than 42 percent of the vote. The proposal would also eliminate first-past-the-post constituencies, which opposition parties say favor competitive races in parts of southern Italy. The legislation still requires Senate approval after the summer recess. Debate over the bill exposed divisions within the governing coalition, while analysts say the emergence of a new far-right party could influence future election outcomes.

Macron launches campaign to restore Fontainebleau forest after devastating wildfire

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

French President Emmanuel Macron pledged on Thursday to restore the historic Fontainebleau forest after wildfires burned at least 10 percent of the 20,000-hectare woodland south of Paris and forced about 1,000 residents to evacuate. Although the fire has been contained, Macron warned it could take weeks to extinguish

completely and announced a fundraising campaign led by local authorities, the National Forest Office and the Fondation du Patrimoine to support replanting efforts. Describing the forest as a national treasure for biodiversity and recreation, Macron compared the initiative to the successful fundraising campaign launched after the 2019 Notre-Dame Cathedral fire, which helped finance the landmark's restoration and reopening in 2024.

France's lower house approves assisted dying bill pending constitutional review

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

France's National Assembly gave final approval on Wednesday to legislation allowing some adults with incurable, life-threatening illnesses to receive medically assisted dying under strict conditions. The bill now awaits review by the Constitutional Council before it can become law. Eligible patients must be at least 18, be French citizens or legal

residents, have an advanced or terminal illness causing unbearable suffering, and voluntarily request the medication. Most patients would self-administer the medication, while medical assistance would be permitted only if a physical condition prevents them from doing so. Supporters described the measure as expanding personal choice, while opponents argued it could place pressure on vulnerable patients despite the legislation's safeguards.

Britain moves to designate Iran's Revolutionary Guard as a state security threat

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Britain announced on Monday that it will designate Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, along with two other organizations, under the National Security (State Threats) Act 2026. If approved by Parliament, the designation will make it a criminal offense to support the groups' activities linked to Britain or knowingly

receive material benefits from them, with some offenses carrying a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. The move follows growing diplomatic tensions between London and Tehran over alleged Iranian intelligence activities in Britain. Iran rejected the accusations and described the arrests of several Iranian nationals as unjustified. The new designation is separate from Britain's existing terrorism laws.

Two killed and three wounded in shooting near Toronto street festival

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two people were killed and three others were injured after a shooting near Toronto's annual Salsa on St. Clair festival on Saturday, prompting a major police response. Authorities found five people with gunshot wounds near the intersection of St. Clair Avenue West and Arlington Avenue, close to the popular cultural event that attracts thousands of visitors each year. Police initially warned of an active shooter before later confirming the scene had been secured. No suspect or arrests had been announced by Sunday. Investigators continue to examine the circumstances surrounding the shooting while additional security measures remain in place. The incident follows several high-profile shootings reported in Canada in recent months.

Twelve nations reaffirm support for rules-based Indo-Pacific on South China Sea ruling anniversary

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Twelve countries, led by the United States, reaffirmed their commitment on Sunday to a free and open Indo-Pacific while marking the tenth anniversary of the international tribunal ruling that rejected China's broad maritime claims in the South China Sea. The joint statement urged all parties to resolve disputes peacefully under international law and reiterated that the 2016 arbitration decision between China and the Philippines remains legally binding. The countries also opposed the use of military, coast guard or maritime militia forces to intimidate lawful activities at sea. China continues to reject the tribunal's ruling, while regional tensions over competing territorial claims remain unresolved.

Venezuela earthquake death toll rises to 4,333 as rebuilding efforts expand



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Venezuela's National Assembly president said on Saturday that the death toll from the June 24 earthquakes had risen to 4,333, while more than 16,700 people were injured and over 6,400 rescued. Authorities have established 94 temporary shelters housing more than 18,000 displaced residents as thousands remain homeless. Officials also launched a national housing registry to identify families eligible for financial assistance, home repairs and permanent housing. The government plans to construct transitional housing while rebuilding damaged communities and reform housing assistance programs. Acting President Delcy Rodríguez also thanked 28 countries for providing humanitarian aid, saying international support has been critical to the recovery effort.

HAL receives seventh GE engine, boosting Tejas Mk-1A production



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has received the seventh GE F404-IN20 engine for its Tejas Mk-1A fighter program, providing a major boost to production after months of delivery delays. The engine, supplied by GE Aerospace, will help speed up the assembly of aircraft that have been awaiting engine integration before flight testing and delivery to the Indian Air Force. The F404-IN20 powers both the Tejas Mk-1 and Mk-1A variants, and delayed engine supplies have been the primary obstacle to the program's production schedule. Under a contract worth about Rs.48,000 crore, the Indian Air Force has ordered 83 Tejas Mk-1A jets, with a follow-on order for 97 more, bringing the planned fleet to 180 aircraft. GE Aerospace has committed to supplying 24 to 26 engines annually from 2026, while Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has expanded production capacity in Bengaluru and Nashik to support faster deliveries.

Cockroach Janata Party stages protest in Mumbai demanding transparent and corruption-free examination system



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Cockroach Janata Party, led by Abhijit Dipke, held a peaceful protest at Azad Maidan in Mumbai on Thursday, calling for a transparent, accountable, and corruption-free examination system. The demonstration, which took place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., urged the government to strengthen transparency in the education system and take effective measures against alleged irregularities in examinations. Mumbai Police had granted permission for the protest and imposed conditions to ensure law and order, prevent traffic disruptions, and maintain public peace. Around 1,000 people were expected to participate, with adequate security personnel deployed in and around Azad Maidan. Police had warned that any violation of the prescribed conditions would invite legal action, and the protest was conducted under security arrangements.

E20 fuel debate intensifies as consumer complaints mount, Centre defends ethanol push

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's nationwide rollout of E20 petrol has sparked a heated debate, with a growing number of motorists claiming the ethanol-blended fuel has reduced mileage, affected vehicle performance, and, in some cases, caused engine problems. The controversy has gained momentum following a consumer court ruling in Chhattisgarh directing Maruti Suzuki to replace or compensate the owner of a vehicle that allegedly suffered damage after using E20 fuel, a decision the automaker has said it will challenge. The backlash has been amplified on social media, where owners of several vehicle brands have reported lower fuel efficiency and performance after switching to E20. Concerns have also been raised about whether older vehicles, manufactured before E20 compatibility became standard, are fully suited to the higher ethanol blend. Opposition leaders and consumer groups have questioned the pace of the nationwide rollout and the lack of lower-blend fuel alternatives.

The Centre, however, has firmly defended its ethanol-blending programme. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has dismissed the controversy as "misrepresentation" and "fearmongering," maintaining that there is no evidence E20 damages compatible engines. He acknowledged that ethanol's lower energy density may lead to a minor reduction in mileage, but argued the benefits outweigh the drawbacks, citing reduced crude oil imports, lower emissions, improved energy security, and additional income for farmers. Puri has also



said the government would proceed cautiously before introducing higher blends such as E25, following consultations with the automobile industry. Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has also strongly rejected allegations that E20 harms vehicles, describing such claims as politically motivated. He has challenged critics to produce evidence of engine damage directly caused by ethanol-blended fuel, while acknowledging that motorists may notice a slight drop in mileage because ethanol contains less energy than conventional petrol. Gadkari has repeatedly argued that expanding ethanol use is critical to reducing India's dependence on imported fossil fuels and promoting cleaner mobility.

The ethanol programme is a key part of India's strategy to cut oil imports, reduce carbon emissions, and support domestic biofuel production. However, with consumer complaints increasing and legal challenges reaching the courts, the debate has shifted beyond environmental policy to questions of vehicle compatibility, consumer protection, and the pace of India's transition to cleaner fuels.

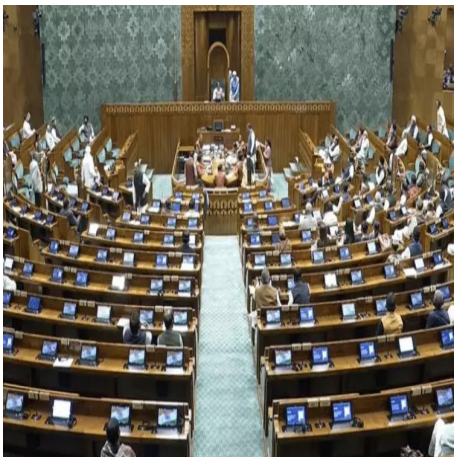
Opposition, National Democratic Alliance clash over proposed Bill to penalize insults to Vande Mataram

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A political confrontation erupted on Friday after reports suggested the Central government is likely to introduce a Bill during the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament to penalize anyone who insults or obstructs the rendition of 'Vande Mataram'. The proposed legislation is expected to grant the national song legal protection similar to that enjoyed by the national anthem.

Opposition leaders, including representatives of the Congress, Communist Party of India, and Samajwadi Party, questioned the need for a new law, arguing that existing provisions are sufficient while accusing the government of prioritizing divisive issues over unemployment and other public concerns.

Leaders of the National Democratic



Alliance defended the proposal, describing 'Vande Mataram' as a symbol of national pride that deserves stronger legal safeguards. They said the legislation would reinforce respect for the national song and ensure strict action against anyone found insulting or disrupting its rendition.

Passenger traffic rises steadily at Noida International Airport after first month

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Noida International Airport has recorded a steady increase in passenger traffic during its first month of commercial operations, reflecting growing acceptance of the new aviation hub in the National Capital Region. Official figures show the airport handled 27,841 passengers in June, rising to 33,446 in July, an increase of about 5,600 travelers. The July total included higher numbers of local arrivals and transfer

passengers, taking the cumulative passenger count for the first two months to 61,287. Aviation experts attribute the growth to the airport's modern infrastructure, improved connectivity and convenient access for travelers from western Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and surrounding areas. Although some passengers initially questioned whether the airport would offer lower fares than Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, the steady rise in traffic suggests increasing confidence in the facility as an alternative gateway for the region.

Rajasthan Police directs officers to replace 'Dalit' with 'Scheduled Caste' in official records

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Rajasthan Police has directed its officers to stop using the term "Dalit" in official records and communication, replacing it with the constitutionally recognized term "Scheduled Caste" or "Anusoochit Jaati." The directive, issued earlier this month and made public on Friday, applies to documents including First Information Reports, charge sheets, arrest memos, case diaries, complaints, and official correspondence. Police officials said the order follows a 2018 Madhya Pradesh High Court ruling, a 2019 Rajasthan government directive, and instructions from the Chief Minister's Office after complaints that the term continued to be used. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had also previously advised media organizations to avoid using "Dalit" in official broadcasts.

Centre challenges Delhi High Court order quashing passport and visa outsourcing tender

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Central government moved the Supreme Court on Friday challenging a Delhi High Court ruling that set aside the technical evaluation process for outsourcing Consular, Passport and Visa services at Indian missions in Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Singapore, and Canberra. Appearing before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta sought an urgent hearing, and the court agreed to hear the matter on Monday. Earlier this week, the High Court ruled that the evaluation process lacked transparency and violated constitutional principles of fairness and equality, citing arbitrary scoring of bidders. The court also quashed the awarded contracts and directed the Ministry of External Affairs to issue fresh tenders within a month, while allowing existing service providers to continue operations to avoid disruption.

BJP calls Punjab land pooling policy a bid to seize farmers' land

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday intensified its opposition to the Punjab government's land pooling policy, calling it an "anti-farmer" move aimed at grabbing agricultural land rather than promoting development. State Bharatiya Janata Party President Kewal Singh Dhillon visited Patton village in Mohali district, where he met affected farmers and assured them of the party's support.

Farmers alleged the government was trying to acquire their only source of livelihood despite unresolved issues from earlier acquisitions, including pending development, compensation, and promised electricity connections.

Dhillon accused Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's Aam Aadmi Party government of attempting to push through the policy despite earlier withdrawing it, alleging it could lead to a major scam. He vowed the Bharatiya Janata Party would strongly oppose any attempt to acquire farmers' land under the policy.

Gujarat steps up malaria surveillance with record 9.4 million tests

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Gujarat Health Department has conducted a record 9.4 million malaria tests this year as part of an intensified campaign against mosquito-borne diseases during the monsoon, officials said on Friday. More than 19,500 health teams have carried out door-to-door visits covering over 65 million people, identifying fever cases and screening residents for malaria. Authorities said 486 malaria cases have been detected and treated free of charge. The state has also tested more than 65,000 samples for dengue and nearly 10,000 for chikungunya. Officials said over 2.9 million mosquito breeding sites have been eliminated, while fogging, insecticide spraying, and the release of larva-eating fish are being used to curb mosquito populations. Awareness campaigns and daily monitoring continue across the state.

Modi launches India's first hydrogen-powered train and development projects in Haryana

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday flagged off India's first hydrogen-powered train from Jind, Haryana, and launched infrastructure projects worth about 14,700 crore rupees. The 10-coach train will operate between Jind and Sonipat, using hydrogen fuel cells that emit only water vapor. During the event, Modi also inaugurated sections of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, the Ambala-Kala Amb Highway, and the Jind-Gohana Greenfield Highway, while laying the foundation stone for the Hansi-Barwala Highway project. He also dedicated new medical colleges, hospital facilities, and an elevated railway track in Kurukshetra, besides announcing a Sikh museum for the city. The projects are aimed at improving transportation, healthcare, tourism, and regional connectivity across Haryana.

BJP replaces Bankipur bypoll candidate, setting up contest against Prashant Kishor



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Friday replaced its candidate for the Bankipur Assembly bypoll in Bihar, naming Neeraj Kumar Sinha after Abhishek Kumar Sinha withdrew from the race, citing family reasons. The bypoll was necessitated after former MLA Nitin Nabin resigned following his election to the Rajya Sabha. Neeraj Sinha, a resident of Patna's Mithapur area, will take on Jan Suraj founder Prashant Kishor, who has accused the BJP of neglecting the constituency. Reacting to the change, Kishor said the withdrawal reflected the ruling party's nervousness about the contest. Voting for the bypoll is scheduled for July 30, with counting of votes on August 3. The Rashtriya Janata Dal has fielded Rekha Gupta, while Janshakti Janata Dal has nominated Veena Manvi.

Puri and Ahmedabad Rath Yatras conclude with massive turnout and tight security

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The annual Jagannath Rath Yatra concluded on Thursday in both Puri and Ahmedabad, drawing hundreds of thousands of devotees under extensive security arrangements. In Odisha, the state government said an estimated 800,000 to 900,000 pilgrims attended the Puri festival despite persistent rain. It confirmed the deaths of two devotees, one after falling ill and another from cardiac arrest, but rejected reports of a stampede, saying crowd management remained effective throughout. Meanwhile, Gujarat's 149th Jagannath Rath Yatra concluded after the chariots returned to the historic Shree Jagannath Temple in Ahmedabad. Lakhs of devotees participated in the procession, which was monitored through advanced



surveillance systems and protected by more than 31,000 security personnel. Authorities in both states credited extensive planning, medical support, and security measures for ensuring the smooth conduct of the centuries-old religious celebrations.

Federal Bureau of Investigation arrests Jaggu Bhagwanpuria associate in Operation Hard Ball crackdown

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested Nitish Kaushal, an alleged associate of jailed gangster Jaggu Bhagwanpuria, in Vermont on Friday as part of its ongoing Operation Hard Ball targeting transnational organized crime. Kaushal was taken into custody two days after being placed on the agency's Most Wanted list and faces charges under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the syndicate is linked to murder, kidnapping, drug trafficking, extortion, weapons trafficking, money laundering, and human smuggling. The operation has resulted in 24 arrests



across the United States, Canada, and Spain, along with 37 indictments. Authorities say the broader investigation also targets networks linked to jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, whom United States prosecutors accuse of directing organized crime activities from prison.

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat says Opposition will face scrutiny over delimitation and women's reservation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Friday accused Opposition parties of adopting a "double standard" on delimitation and the Women's Reservation Act, saying their stance would once again come under public scrutiny during the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament. Speaking in Jodhpur, Shekhawat said delimitation has become a constitutional necessity because of population growth and is essential for implementing women's reservation in legislatures. He alleged that the Opposition's resistance reflected an anti-women mindset and said parties opposing the measures would have to answer to the public. The minister also highlighted infrastructure projects in Rajasthan, including railway



station modernization, railway electrification, airport development, and new highway projects, crediting the Central government for accelerating the state's development under its broader infrastructure agenda.

Drunk railway gateman arrested after school bus crash kills four in West Bengal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Police arrested a railway gateman on Friday after a preliminary investigation found that his alleged negligence led to a train colliding with a school van in Murshidabad, West Bengal, killing four people, including three schoolchildren. Officials said the gateman was allegedly intoxicated and failed to close the railway crossing despite being alerted about an approaching train.

The railway employee was suspended before being taken into police custody. Local residents claimed they had previously complained about the gateman allegedly reporting for duty under the influence of alcohol. Four others, including three students, remain hospitalized with critical injuries. Former Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, who visited the site, called for a thorough investigation into the incident, including possible infrastructure and staffing lapses.

Assam Rifles soldier killed, four injured in improvised explosive device blast in Nagaland

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Assam Rifles havildar was killed and four personnel were injured when an improvised explosive device struck their convoy in Nagaland's Chumoukedima district on Monday, officials said. The explosion occurred near Sukhovi, where the paramilitary force has a training center, severely damaging one of the vehicles. Security forces launched a large search operation after the attack, while investigators examined whether the explosive device had been planted and detonated remotely. Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton, and Assam Rifles Director General Lieutenant General Vikas Lakhera condemned the attack and vowed action against those responsible. The incident came days after two Assam Rifles personnel were killed in an ambush in neighboring Manipur, although the National Socialist Council of Nagalim-Isak-Muivah denied involvement in that attack.

Telegram responds to Centre over username feature amid fraud concerns

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Telegram has responded to the Central government's notice seeking an explanation for its username feature, joining WhatsApp in addressing concerns raised by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology over potential misuse. According to reports, the government is reviewing submissions from both platforms amid concerns that usernames could facilitate impersonation, phishing, financial fraud, and other cybercrimes by allowing users to communicate without revealing their phone numbers. Officials have not disclosed the contents of the responses, and neither company has issued a public statement. The Centre has directed WhatsApp not to roll out the feature in India until consultations are completed and has also sought explanations from Signal over its existing username system. The government has separately asked Telegram to strengthen measures against the circulation of pirated content on its platform.

Kharge urges Modi to hold all-party meeting on revised delimitation Bills

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging the government to convene an all-party meeting before introducing revised delimitation legislation during the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament. In his letter, Kharge said the Congress had repeatedly sought wider consultations on the proposals earlier this year but those requests were not accepted. He also referred to the failure of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, which did not secure the required two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha in April. Citing media reports that the Centre plans to reintroduce a revised version of the Bill, Kharge asked the government to provide political parties adequate time to examine the proposals. The legislation seeks to implement women's reservation in Parliament and state Assemblies, expand the strength of the Lok Sabha from 550 to 850 seats, and pave the way for the first nationwide delimitation exercise since 1976.

Trump administration races to restore tariff revenues before temporary import duties expire

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration is moving to rebuild its tariff regime after the Supreme Court struck down its broad import duties imposed under emergency powers, wiping out a major source of federal revenue. Temporary 10 percent global tariffs introduced under Section 122 of the Trade Act are set to expire on Friday, prompting officials to accelerate the use of Section 301, which allows longer-term tariffs on countries found to engage in unfair trade practices. The administration has already proposed new duties linked to alleged forced labor and is investigating industrial overcapacity involving several major trading partners. Trade experts expect the new tariffs to largely replace the expiring measures, although they warn the broader use of Section 301 to impose wide-ranging import duties could face fresh legal challenges despite offering businesses greater policy certainty.

Singapore court orders Bloomberg to pay ministers in defamation case

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Singapore's High Court has ordered Bloomberg News and reporter Low De Wei to pay 460,000 Singapore dollars, about 356,000 United States dollars, in damages after ruling that a 2024 article defamed Home Affairs Minister K. Shanmugam and Manpower Minister Tan See Leng. The ministers sued over a report on high-value "good class bungalow" property transactions that they said implied wrongdoing. On Tuesday, the court awarded each minister 230,000 Singapore dollars, including aggravated damages. Bloomberg said it was disappointed with the ruling and continued to stand by its reporting, arguing the article served the public interest and did not allege misconduct. The court found the report presented false claims about the opacity of Singapore's property records and criticized Bloomberg's handling of a government correction order.

China's economic growth slows to one of weakest quarterly performances on record

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

China's economy expanded 4.3 percent during the second quarter, marking one of its weakest quarterly growth rates since official records began in the early 1990s and falling below the government's target range. Data released on Wednesday showed exports remained strong, rising 27 percent in June, while domestic demand continued to weaken. Vehicle exports exceeded one million units for the first time, but domestic vehicle sales fell more than 16 percent, highlighting the economy's growing reliance on overseas markets. Economists said stronger consumer spending and investment will be essential to rebalance growth, with attention now turning to whether Chinese leaders announce fresh stimulus measures later this month. China's economy grew 4.7 percent during the first half of the year.

Oil surges and gold tumbles as United States-Iran conflict fuels supply fears and inflation concerns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Oil prices rallied while gold dropped to an eight-month low on Friday as escalating military hostilities between the United States and Iran heightened fears of disruptions to global energy supplies and renewed inflationary pressures. Brent crude climbed above \$84 a barrel and United States West Texas Intermediate approached \$80, with both benchmarks posting gains of nearly 12 percent for the week after renewed attacks around the Strait of Hormuz and reports that Iran had asked Houthi forces to prepare to disrupt shipping through the Red Sea if the conflict intensifies. The growing threat to two of the world's most important oil transit routes has added a significant geopolitical risk premium to crude prices.

At the same time, expectations that higher energy costs could keep inflation elevated strengthened the case for the Federal Reserve to maintain higher



interest rates for longer, reducing the appeal of non-yielding assets. Gold fell below \$4,000 an ounce for the first time in eight months as investors shifted focus from recent signs of easing United States inflation to the inflationary risks posed by the widening Middle East conflict. Analysts said commodity markets are likely to remain volatile until geopolitical tensions ease.

India-United Kingdom trade pact gets off to strong start with first exports worth over \$140 million

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement with the United Kingdom officially entered into force on Wednesday, with export consignments worth more than \$140 million dispatched on the first day under the new preferential tariff regime. More than 50 shipments were flagged off from over 20 ports, airports, inland container depots, special economic zones and manufacturing facilities nationwide, covering products ranging from electronics and pharmaceuticals to engineering goods, textiles and gems and jewelry. Ahmedabad also marked its first regional shipment under the agreement, with exports worth more than Rs 3.07 crore from seven companies across the pharmaceutical, automobile, engineering, polymer and textile sectors. The agreement provides duty-free access for nearly 99 percent of India's exports to the United Kingdom by value, while India has opened most of its tariff lines to British goods, retaining protections for sensitive sectors. The accompanying Double

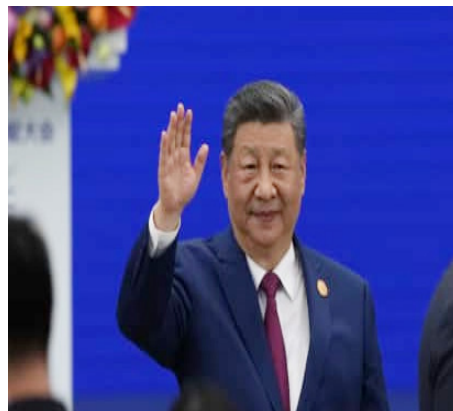


Contribution Convention exempts eligible Indian professionals on temporary assignments in the United Kingdom from dual social security contributions for up to five years. Officials said the agreement is expected to strengthen manufacturing, benefit micro, small and medium enterprises, expand services trade and support the shared goal of doubling bilateral trade by 2030.

Xi urges global cooperation on artificial intelligence as China pushes back against United States technology curbs

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday called for greater international cooperation on artificial intelligence, urging countries not to let national security concerns hinder global technological development. Speaking at the World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai, Xi said artificial intelligence should be developed through international collaboration rather than dominated by any single nation, while criticizing the expansion of national security restrictions that have limited China's access to advanced technologies. He announced that China would provide 5,000 artificial intelligence training opportunities for developing countries over the next five years and expand cooperation with regional organizations, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and BRICS. The



conference also highlighted China's growing ambitions in artificial intelligence, with more than 1,100 companies participating and Huawei showcasing its latest computing platform, underscoring Beijing's drive to strengthen domestic innovation amid intensifying technology competition with the United States.

Vodafone settles lawsuit with former franchisees without admitting liability

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Vodafone has reached a confidential settlement with 62 former United Kingdom franchisees, ending a 19-month legal dispute over claims that the telecommunications company unfairly reduced commissions and imposed excessive financial penalties that left many business owners heavily indebted. The settlement, announced on Thursday, resolves the High Court case without any admission of liability by Vodafone. The former franchisees alleged the company acted in bad faith by cutting payments, imposing steep fines and encouraging struggling operators to take on additional debt. Vodafone has consistently denied wrongdoing, describing the case as a commercial dispute, although it previously apologized to franchisees who had difficult experiences and introduced governance reforms, including reimbursing millions of pounds in fines and financial clawbacks.

United States targets India as key growth market for Kentucky bourbon exports

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States is seeking greater access for Kentucky bourbon in India's fast-growing alcoholic beverage market as part of broader efforts to expand American exports. During a congressional hearing on commercial diplomacy on Tuesday, Representative Andy Barr urged the Commerce Department to help increase bourbon sales in India after discussions with United States Ambassador Sergio Gor and Indian Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. Commerce official David Fogel said promoting American products overseas is a core priority, with officials working to reduce non-tariff barriers through direct engagement with foreign governments. The discussion also highlighted broader trade negotiations involving agricultural exports. India remains one of the world's largest spirits markets, although imported alcohol continues to face high import duties and varying state-level regulations.

Dollar heads for weekly decline as easing inflation tempers Federal Reserve rate expectations

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States dollar was steady on Friday but remained on track for a weekly decline after softer inflation data prompted investors to reduce expectations of another Federal Reserve interest rate increase. The dollar found support from renewed safe-haven demand as fighting between the United States and Iran intensified, pushing oil prices toward one-month highs. Traders now see only a small chance of a rate increase later this month, down sharply from a week earlier, after inflation cooled and retail sales suggested the economy remains resilient. The euro, British pound and Chinese yuan were all poised for weekly gains, while the Japanese yen hovered near multi-decade lows amid continued speculation about possible government intervention.

United States and Australia launch \$2 billion push to strengthen critical minerals supply chains

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States and Australia have agreed to invest at least \$2 billion in critical minerals projects as they seek to reduce reliance on China's dominance of the sector. Announced on Tuesday, the agreement commits both governments to invest at least \$1 billion each over the next six months in mining and processing projects while introducing a price floor for critical minerals. The United States Export-Import Bank also issued more than \$2.2 billion in preliminary financing support for seven Australian projects involving rare earths, magnesium and other strategic minerals. The two countries will also back Alcoa's proposed gallium processing plant in Western Australia, which could eventually supply up to 10 percent of global gallium demand for semiconductor and defense industries.

United States rejects Tesla request to avoid recall over headlight safety issue

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States auto safety regulators on Thursday rejected Tesla's request to avoid a recall affecting nearly 20,000 Model 3 and Model Y vehicles with headlights that may exceed federal brightness limits. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said it disagreed with Tesla's claim that the issue posed no meaningful safety risk, warning that excessive glare could reduce visibility for other drivers, particularly during rain, snow and fog. The recall covers certain 2017 through 2023 model year vehicles. Tesla said it was unaware of any crashes, injuries or customer complaints linked to the issue. The agency noted it had rejected a similar request from General Motors involving excessive headlight glare in 2022.

DeepSeek funding filing suggests artificial intelligence startup is worth about \$52 billion

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A regulatory filing has provided the clearest indication yet that Chinese artificial intelligence startup DeepSeek is valued at about \$52 billion following its first external fundraising round. Chinese company Anhui Korrun disclosed on Thursday that a fund backed by one of its subsidiaries invested 2.9 billion yuan for an indirect 0.8265 percent stake in DeepSeek, implying a valuation of about 351 billion yuan.

The filing broadly matches earlier Reuters reporting on the company's fundraising plans. DeepSeek has not publicly confirmed details of its investment round but has shifted away from relying solely on founder Liang Wenfeng's hedge fund to finance growing spending on computing power, artificial intelligence development and talent recruitment.

HDFC Bank appoints former Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar to strengthen board leadership

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

HDFC Bank has appointed former Finance Secretary and former Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar as its part-time chairman after receiving approval from the Reserve Bank of India. The three-year appointment took effect on Wednesday under the Banking Regulation Act. Kumar, a 1984-batch Indian Administrative Service officer, brings extensive experience in banking reforms, financial policy and public administration, having overseen the Department of Financial Services during a period of major banking sector reforms. HDFC Bank also thanked interim



chairman Keki Mistry for his leadership, confirming that he will continue to serve on the board as a non-executive, non-independent director.

IBM says artificial intelligence infrastructure spending shift drove earnings miss and share plunge

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

IBM shares plunged 25 percent after the technology company reported weaker-than-expected preliminary second-quarter results, with Chief Executive Officer Arvind Krishna acknowledging the company underestimated the rapid shift in customer spending toward artificial intelligence infrastructure. In a letter released on Wednesday, Krishna said businesses redirected technology budgets to servers, storage and memory, delaying major software and consulting deals. IBM reported revenue of \$17.2 billion, up 1 percent from a year earlier, while infrastructure revenue fell 7 percent. Despite the disappointing quarter, Krishna said IBM remains



committed to expanding investments in artificial intelligence and quantum computing ahead of its full earnings release on Tuesday.

Australia uranium supply agreement strengthens India's long-term nuclear energy ambitions

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has strengthened its long-term nuclear energy strategy after finalizing an administrative arrangement with Australia that enables sustained uranium supplies under the bilateral Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement. Announced following the two countries' annual summit, the agreement provides India with access to Australia's vast uranium reserves, reinforcing fuel security for its expanding nuclear power program. The arrangement supports India's target of achieving 100 gigawatts of nuclear capacity by 2047 and complements legislation allowing greater private sector participation in nuclear projects. India currently operates 24 reactors, with 10 more under



construction, as it expands low-carbon electricity generation to meet rising industrial demand and advance its clean energy goals.

NIDAR 2.0 aims to accelerate India's indigenous drone technology and talent pipeline

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, in partnership with the Drone Federation India, on Monday launched NIDAR 2.0, the second edition of the National Innovation Challenge for Drone Application and Research, to strengthen India's indigenous drone ecosystem and autonomous technology capabilities. Part of the SwaYaan initiative, the competition will encourage students

to develop core drone technologies, including autonomous systems, avionics and processors powered by India's homegrown VEGA chip architecture. Building on the inaugural edition, which attracted more than 3,400 students and awarded Rs 40 lakh in prizes, NIDAR 2.0 expands its focus beyond drone operation to advanced research and innovation, supporting India's broader goal of achieving self-reliance in strategic technologies and next-generation unmanned aerial systems.

Trump Media plans premium access to Truth Social posts for institutional clients



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Trump Media and Technology Group announced on Thursday that it plans to launch a premium service offering institutional investors and other subscribers faster access to selected Truth Social posts. The new platform, called Truth PSI, will deliver posts from leading accounts within milliseconds, allowing customers to receive information before standard users. The company did not confirm whether posts from President Donald Trump, the platform's most-followed user and its largest shareholder, would be included. Ethics experts said the proposal raises conflict-of-interest concerns because presidential statements can influence financial markets. Trump Media said the service is part of its strategy to generate new revenue and expects to launch it next month after already signing initial customers.

Skyroot set for maiden launch of India's first privately built orbital rocket

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Skyroot Aerospace is preparing to launch the maiden test flight of its Vikram-1 orbital rocket on Friday from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, marking the first attempt by a privately developed orbital-class rocket to lift off from Indian soil. The seven-story launch vehicle is designed to carry satellites weighing up to 350 kilograms into low Earth orbit and features carbon composite construction, 3D-printed engines and solid-fuel boosters. Named 'Mission Aagaman,' the test follows Skyroot's successful Vikram-S suborbital launch in 2022 and is expected to provide critical flight data as the company targets the growing global small satellite launch market.

Apple rolls out Back to School offer with free accessories for students in India

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Apple on Thursday launched its annual Back to School promotion in India, offering eligible students, parents and educators complimentary accessories with select Mac and iPad purchases through Wednesday, August 27. Buyers of qualifying Mac models can receive free AirPods 4 or a four-pack of AirTags, while eligible iPad purchases include a complimentary Apple Pencil Pro. Customers may also upgrade to premium accessories at discounted prices. The offer is available alongside Apple's year-round education discounts, with eligibility verified through Unidays or Apple retail stores. The announcement comes as Apple continues expanding manufacturing in India, where iPhone production increased significantly last year.

Jackson Suber grabs early British Open lead with impressive debut round

American Jackson Suber made a memorable British Open debut on Thursday, shooting a 5 under 65 to take the first-round lead at Royal Birkdale in Southport, England. Playing his first tournament in Europe and first links course, the 26-year-old capped his round with a birdie on the 16th and an eagle on the 17th after a superb approach from 233 yards. He held a one-shot advantage over Sungjae Im and England's Dan Brown. Bryson DeChambeau was among a group at 67, while world number one Scottie Scheffler opened with a 68. Defending Masters champion Rory McIlroy struggled with six bogeys and finished with an even-par 72.

Francisco Alvarez powers Mets past Phillies after All-Star break

Francisco Alvarez hit two home runs and Brett Baty also went deep as the New York Mets defeated the Philadelphia Phillies 4-1 on Thursday in the first Major League Baseball game following the All-Star break. Alvarez homered in the third inning and again in the seventh, when he and Baty hit back-to-back home runs off Aaron Nola. Christian Scott improved to 3-1 after allowing three hits over 5 2/3 scoreless innings with seven strikeouts. A.J. Ewing added an RBI double in the ninth, while Devin Williams earned his 100th career save. The game was played under smoky conditions caused by wildfire smoke drifting into the region from Canada and Minnesota. Juan Soto exited in the eighth inning with left calf soreness but is expected to return this weekend.

India drawn with Malaysia, Syria and Iraq in Under-17 Women's Asian Cup qualifiers

India will face Malaysia, Syria, and Iraq in Group E of the AFC Under-17 Women's Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers, following the draw held in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday. Malaysia will host the qualifying group from Monday through Sunday, October 5-11, 2026, with India opening its campaign against Iraq before taking on Syria and the hosts. The Blue Tigresses will be looking to qualify for a second straight Asian Cup after reaching the quarterfinals for the first time at the 2026 tournament in China, where they were eliminated by the hosts. The eight group winners will advance to the finals in China, while the tournament's four semifinalists will earn places at the 2027 FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup in Morocco.

Messi's Argentina to face Yamal's Spain in World Cup final

Defending champion Argentina will take on Spain in the FIFA World Cup final on Sunday, setting up a highly anticipated clash between the tournament's most prolific attack and its stingiest defense. Spain secured its place in the championship match with a 2-0 victory over France on Tuesday, while Argentina rallied to defeat England 2-1 on Wednesday. Argentina is chasing its fourth World Cup title and a second consecutive championship, a feat last achieved by Brazil in 1958 and 1962. Led by Lionel Messi, the defending champions have won all seven of their matches and scored a tournament-high 19 goals. Spain, meanwhile, has impressed with its defensive discipline, conceding just one goal while remaining unbeaten throughout the competition.

The title match at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, will also showcase one of soccer's most compelling storylines, with Messi facing 18-year-old



Lamine Yamal, Spain's rising star. A widely shared photograph of Messi holding Yamal as a baby during a charity event has resurfaced ahead of the final, adding another layer of intrigue to a matchup that symbolizes one generation passing the torch to the next. The final also brings together the world's top two ranked teams, with

Argentina seeking to cement its dynasty and Spain aiming to lift the World Cup for the second time after its triumph in 2010. The matchup is expected to provide a fitting finale to the first 48-team FIFA World Cup, which has featured a record 104 matches across the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Tour de France heads to historic Ballon d'Alsace on longest stage

The Tour de France enters one of its toughest tests on Friday with Stage 13 from Dole to Belfort, the race's longest stage at 205.8 kilometers. The route marks the first of three consecutive days in the mountains and culminates with the historic Category One Ballon d'Alsace, an 8.9-kilometer climb averaging 6.9 percent, followed by a technical descent to the finish. An intermediate sprint in M  lisey, hometown of retired French rider Thibaut Pinot, could shape the day's tactics. Analysts expect a breakaway to have the best chance of success, with strong climbers and confident descenders such as Tom Pidcock



and Richard Carapaz viewed among the contenders. UAE Team Emirates is expected to closely monitor any attacks.

NBA investigates Bucks' signing of Gary Trent Jr.

The National Basketball Association is investigating the circumstances surrounding the Milwaukee Bucks' signing of Gary Trent Jr., league officials confirmed on Thursday. According to multiple reports, the investigation is examining whether the contract could involve salary cap circumvention. Trent reportedly agreed to a four-year, \$64 million deal after declining a \$3.9 million player option for the upcoming season. The concern centers on whether there was any prior understanding that Trent would accept below-market contracts over the past two seasons before receiving a larger long-term deal. The 25-year-old guard averaged 8.1 points in 21.2 minutes per game last season after helping Milwaukee reach the playoffs. The Bucks have not disclosed the contract terms.



Triathlon launches unified global tour to boost worldwide appeal



World Triathlon and private race organizers have partnered to launch a new global circuit beginning in 2027, aiming to make the sport more accessible and commercially successful. The unified tour will combine efforts to improve broadcasting, digital storytelling, sponsorship opportunities, and fan engagement while maintaining existing race formats. World Triathlon President Antonio Arimany said the long-term goal is to elevate the sport's popularity to a level comparable with tennis and golf. The initiative follows a Deloitte report that identified the sport's fragmented structure as a barrier to growth. The Professional Triathletes Organization will play a key role in the partnership, which also aims to increase prize money, standardize event branding, and create greater opportunities for professional athletes.



Moises Henriques retires from Australian domestic cricket

Former Australia all-rounder Moises Henriques has retired from domestic cricket after ending his careers with New South Wales and the Sydney Sixers, Cricket New South Wales announced on Wednesday. The 39-year-old leaves as Australia's most-capped domestic player with 420 appearances across formats and 14 major titles. Henriques, who retired from first-class cricket last year, will continue playing overseas and is set to represent his native Portugal in next month's European qualifiers for the 2028 Twenty20 World Cup. He will also feature for Glasgow Cosmic in the new European Twenty20 competition.

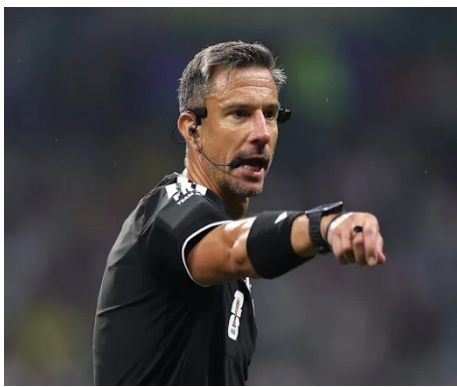


Hansika Lamba wins silver as India reaches five medals in Budapest



India's Hansika Lamba claimed the silver medal in the women's 55-kilogram category at the Polyák Imre, Varga János and Kozma István Memorial Senior Ranking Tournament in Budapest after an impressive run on Friday. The former Under-23 World Championship silver medalist reached the final by rallying from a 7-2 deficit to defeat Germany's Anastasia Blayvas 10-7 in the semifinals. She then lost 5-0 on points to Ukraine's Nataliia Klivchutska in the gold medal bout. India added two freestyle bronze medals through Vishal Kaliraman in the 65-kilogram division and Rajat Ruhail in the 125-kilogram class, taking the team's overall medal tally to five with one gold, one silver, and three bronze medals.

Slavko Vincic appointed to referee FIFA World Cup final



Slovenian referee Slavko Vinčić will officiate the FIFA World Cup final between Argentina and Spain on Sunday, FIFA announced. The 46-year-old will oversee the championship match at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, assisted by fellow Slovenians Tomaž Klančnik and Andraž Kovačič, while Jordan's Adham Makhadmeh will serve as the fourth official. Vinčić previously officiated the 2024 UEFA Champions League final between Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund and has worked at the UEFA European Championship, UEFA Europa League, UEFA Nations League, and FIFA Club World Cup. Sunday's assignment will be his sixth career World Cup match and the biggest appointment of his officiating career.

Mohammad Nawaz cleared to return after reduced doping suspension

Pakistan left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz is eligible to return to cricket after the International Cricket Council confirmed on Friday that his suspension for an anti-doping violation has effectively ended. Nawaz accepted a three-month ban after testing positive for Carboxy-THC, a cannabis metabolite, following Pakistan's opening match against the Netherlands at the Men's Twenty20 World Cup in Sri Lanka. The International Cricket Council determined the substance was used out of competition and was unrelated to performance enhancement. His suspension, backdated to May 1, was reduced after he agreed to complete a substance abuse treatment program. Nawaz's results from the Netherlands match and subsequent games until May 1 have been disqualified under anti-doping rules.



Casper Ruud rallies into Swiss Open quarterfinals

Former champion Casper Ruud fought back from a set down to defeat Portugal's Jaime Faria 6-7 (1), 6-4, 6-2 and reach the Swiss Open quarterfinals on Thursday. Faria, who eliminated Stan Wawrinka in the opening round, pushed the second-seeded Norwegian before Ruud raised his level midway through the second set to secure his first victory since the French Open. The two-time Gstaad champion will next face Juan Manuel Cerúndolo, who defeated Miomir Kecmanović in three sets. Elsewhere, Stefanos Tsitsipas completed a hard-fought 6-4, 6-7 (2), 7-6 (5) victory over Swiss wild card Jérôme Kym after their match resumed on Thursday following a suspension because of bad light the previous evening.



Firouzja claims opening win at Chennai Grand Masters

French Grandmaster Alireza Firouzja registered the only victory of the opening round at the Chennai Grand Masters 2026, defeating India's M. Pranesh in a 79-move marathon on Thursday. Playing with the black pieces, Firouzja capitalized on a rook-and-pawn endgame to secure an early lead in India's premier classical chess tournament. The remaining three first-round contests ended in draws. Reigning World Champion D. Gukesh was held by fellow Indian Nihal Sarin, while Arjun Erigaisi shared the point with Dmitry Andreikin after 42 moves. Nodirbek Abdusattorov and Hans Niemann also settled for a draw. The eight-player event follows a double round-robin format and has become an important stepping stone for elite players, with Gukesh having won the



inaugural edition before beginning his rise to the world championship. Firouzja will face Gukesh in a much-anticipated second-round clash on Friday.

England's pacers spark India collapse in second One Day International

England's fast bowlers produced a stunning turnaround to dismiss India for 233 in 44 overs during the second One Day International at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff on Thursday, despite half-centuries from Virat Kohli and Shreyas Iyer. India looked in control at 178 for 3, but lost its final seven wickets for just 55 runs as Jofra Archer and Gus Atkinson claimed three wickets apiece. Saqib Mahmood chipped in with two wickets as England's seamers accounted for nine dismissals. Kohli anchored the innings with 65, while Iyer top-scored with 66. Captain Shubman Gill contributed 31 before India suffered its dramatic collapse. Jasprit Bumrah added an unbeaten 20 off 13 balls late in the innings, but England will need just 234 to level the three-match series.

Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games marks 100-day countdown



Organizers of the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games marked the 100-day countdown on Thursday by unveiling the official torch, medals, torch relay uniform, and commemorative gifts for Asia's largest Para sporting event. The Games, scheduled from Sunday through the following Saturday in October, are expected to welcome around 3,000 athletes from 45 National Paralympic Committees competing across 18 sports. Asian Paralympic Committee President Majid Rashed said the event's legacy would extend beyond medals by promoting accessibility, equality, and inclusion throughout the region. Inspired by the theme "Imagine One Heart," the newly unveiled medals and torch relay uniform symbolize unity and the coming together of athletes, volunteers, officials, and spectators. Organizers said preparations have entered their final phase as they work toward delivering the most athlete-centered and inclusive edition of the Games.

Aman Sehrawat wins gold at Budapest Ranking Series

Olympic bronze medalist Aman Sehrawat captured the 57-kilogram freestyle gold medal at the Budapest Ranking Series on Wednesday, defeating Georgia's Roberti Dingashvili 13-3 by technical superiority in the final. The victory added another international title to the 22-year-old's growing résumé. India also celebrated a bronze medal as Deepak edged Azerbaijan's Nuraddin Novruzov 9-8 in the 61-kilogram category. The Indian team remained in contention for additional medals, while competition in the remaining men's freestyle divisions and the opening rounds of the women's events were scheduled for Thursday.



Ben Stokes returns to Durham after England retirement

Former England captain Ben Stokes is set to make his first competitive appearance since retiring from international cricket when he plays for Durham against Derbyshire in the One-Day Cup on Tuesday. The match will also mark his first domestic 50-over appearance for Durham in 12 years. Stokes said returning to his boyhood club renewed his passion for cricket after stepping away from the international game. The 35-year-old could also feature in the County Championship before the domestic season concludes.

Joe Amabile reveals early-stage brain tumor after routine health scan



Reality television personality Joe Amabile, best known for his appearances on 'The Bachelorette' and 'Bachelor in Paradise,' has revealed that doctors diagnosed him with an early-stage brain tumor following a routine full-body health screening. Amabile shared on Monday that a Prenuvo scan detected an abnormality, and a follow-up magnetic resonance imaging scan found a "blueberry-sized" lesion that doctors believe could be a glioma. The 40-year-old said he will undergo a craniotomy within two weeks to remove the tumor and remains optimistic about his recovery. His wife, Serena Pitt, thanked fans for their support, saying the diagnosis has been overwhelming but that the couple is staying positive and facing the challenge together.

Alan Jackson ends touring career with emotional farewell concert in Nashville



Country music star Alan Jackson officially concluded his touring career with the final performance of his 'Last Call: One More for the Road' tour before a sold-out crowd at Nissan Stadium in Nashville on Saturday. More than 55,000 fans attended the concert, while thousands more watched at live-stream events across the city. Fellow country artists including Lainey Wilson, Luke Combs, Dierks Bentley and Miranda Lambert paid tribute, and George Strait joined Jackson onstage for surprise performances. Jackson, who has been living with Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, also announced a live album from the concert will be released later this year. His farewell tour raised more than \$2.25 million for research into the neurological disorder.

Jay-Z concert delayed after gate rush at Yankee Stadium

Jay-Z's concert at Yankee Stadium was delayed for several hours on Sunday after hundreds of people without tickets attempted to force their way into the venue, prompting officials to temporarily close stadium entrances for safety reasons. According to a joint statement from the New York Yankees, Roc Nation and Live Nation, large groups of unticketed individuals overwhelmed security checkpoints, with some breaching barriers before entrances were shut and later reopened in a controlled manner.

Video circulating on social media showed crowds gathering outside the stadium and people rushing through one entrance before security intervened.

Jay-Z eventually took the stage shortly after midnight on Monday, apologizing to fans for the delay and explaining that he wanted to ensure everyone entered safely and that no one was injured in the chaos. The New York Police Department said it had no immediate information about any arrests related to the incident.



Disney's live-action 'Moana' opens below expectations despite topping box office

Disney's live-action adaptation of 'Moana' debuted at the top of the North American box office over the weekend but fell short of industry expectations, earning \$43 million domestically and \$95 million worldwide.

The film, directed by Thomas Kail and starring Dwayne Johnson alongside newcomer Catherine Laga'aia, reportedly cost about \$250 million to produce. Critics largely criticized the remake for closely mirroring the 2016 animated original, contributing to a 34 percent score on Rotten Tomatoes. Audience reaction was more favorable, with the film receiving an A-minus CinemaScore and strong recommendations from parents.

Analysts also pointed to heavy competition from family films including 'Minions & Monsters' and 'Toy Story 5,' both of which continued to perform well.



Despite the modest opening, industry observers said family films often enjoy long theatrical runs, meaning the film's overall success will depend on its staying power in the weeks ahead.

Anupam Kher completes first schedule of 'Shri Ram Bhoomi' in Ayodhya

Veteran actor Anupam Kher has completed the first shooting schedule of his upcoming film 'Shri Ram Bhoomi' in Ayodhya, saying the experience left him spiritually enriched. Sharing photographs on Instagram on Friday, Kher described Ayodhya as "not just a city, but an experience," adding that part of him would always remain there. He said visiting the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple and interacting with local residents deepened his understanding of Sanatan Dharma. Directed by Kamakhya Narayan Singh, 'Shri Ram Bhoomi' is based on the construction of the Ram Mandir and stars Kher as late Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader Ashok Singh. Ritwik Bhowmik and Amruta Khanvilkar also feature in the film.



Ava DuVernay announces Netflix documentary on the 14th Amendment



Filmmaker Ava DuVernay has announced a new Netflix documentary, '14th,' examining the United States Constitution's 14th Amendment and the ongoing debate over birthright citizenship. Revealed on Thursday, the film marks DuVernay's return to documentary filmmaking a decade after her Academy Award-nominated '13th.' The documentary comes amid continuing legal and political disputes over the amendment following President Donald Trump's efforts to restrict birthright citizenship through an executive order. DuVernay said the film explores how the amendment remains central to questions of citizenship, rights and democracy in America. '14th' will feature historians, politicians and cultural figures, and is scheduled for release on Netflix later this year.

Vin Diesel reflects on how solitude shaped his journey as an actor and writer



Hollywood star Vin Diesel shared a reflective message on Thursday, saying moments of solitude in the woods have helped shape his creative journey as both an actor and a writer. Posting a close-up photograph on Instagram, Diesel described his evolution from his 1995 short film 'Multi-Facial' to his upcoming portrayal of Hannibal Barca, calling it a path between "who you were and who you're becoming." The actor also highlighted the balance between storytelling and performance, referring to them as "the pen and the sword." Diesel is currently preparing for 'Fast Forever,' the final installment of the 'Fast & Furious' franchise, scheduled for release in March 2028. Earlier this month, he thanked fans for their patience while teasing that the production team is working to deliver a fitting conclusion to the long-running series.

Friday, 17 July 2026

Meghan earns Daytime Emmy nomination for Netflix's 'With Love, Meghan'



Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, received a Daytime Emmy Award nomination on Tuesday for her Netflix lifestyle series 'With Love, Meghan.' The program is nominated in the Outstanding Lifestyle Program category alongside 'A Different Breed,' 'George to the Rescue,' 'The Motherhood' and 'The Wizard of Paws.' The series features cooking, gardening and entertaining segments, with appearances by Chrissy Teigen, Mindy Kaling and Prince Harry. The 53rd Daytime Emmy Awards will be presented on Thursday, October 30, at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles. Before marrying Prince Harry in 2018, Meghan starred in the legal drama 'Suits.' This year's nominations were led by CBS with 48 nods, while categories also recognized leading daytime dramas, talk shows and on-air hosts.

Micheal Ward acquitted of rape and sexual assault charges in London trial



British actor Micheal Ward was found not guilty on Friday of rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault charges following a trial at London's Snaresbrook Crown Court. The 28-year-old 'Top Boy' star had been accused of sexually assaulting a woman in the back of a friend's vehicle in 2023. Ward consistently denied the allegations, maintaining that the sexual encounter was consensual. After the jury delivered unanimous not guilty verdicts on all five charges, the actor became emotional in court. Defense lawyer Humzah Ilyas said Ward had put his life on hold for more than three years and was looking forward to returning to his career. Ward won the British Academy of Film and Television Arts Rising Star Award in 2020 and has appeared in films including 'Blue Story,' 'The Book of Clarence,' 'Empire of Light' and 'Eddington.'

Jasmine Sandlas celebrates first 'Dream Girl Tour' concert after introducing fiancé onstage

Punjabi singer Jasmine Sandlas is celebrating the successful opening of her first 'Dream Girl Tour' after introducing her fiancé, Shekhar, to fans during her Delhi concert last week. Sharing photographs from the performance on Instagram, Sandlas called the experience "still feels like a dream" and thanked the audience for their support. During the show, she introduced Shekhar by telling the crowd, "This is my man. He put a ring on it," before embracing him onstage. The tour marks a milestone in Sandlas' career and follows the success of several recent releases. She previously described the concert series as an opportunity to create a deeper connection with audiences across India.



Sam Neill died from pneumonia, family to hold private memorial in New Zealand

'Jurassic Park' actor Sam Neill died from pneumonia, his agent confirmed on Thursday, clarifying reports following the actor's death earlier in the week. Agent Philip Grenz said Neill had previously overcome angioimmunoblastic T-cell lymphoma after undergoing chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy and had completed four film projects over the past year that are awaiting release.

In keeping with the actor's wishes for privacy, his family plans to hold a private memorial at his farm in New Zealand at a later date. Tributes continued from across the film industry, with Steven Spielberg, Taika Waititi and others remembering



Neill for his warmth, generosity and enduring contributions to cinema.

'Fauzi' starring Prabhas set for worldwide release on December 3

The makers of Prabhas' upcoming historical action drama 'Fauzi' announced on Thursday that the film will be released in theaters worldwide on Thursday, December 3. Director Hanu Raghavapudi shared the news on social media, describing the film as a story of courage, honor and freedom.

Set in the 1940s during British rule, 'Fauzi' is a fictional patriotic drama inspired by the philosophy of the

'Bhagavad Gita,' though the director has clarified it is not a mythological film. The project generated significant attention earlier this year after leaked set photographs surfaced, prompting the filmmakers to urge fans not to share unauthorized content. The film stars Prabhas, Imanvi, Anupam Kher, Mithun Chakraborty, Bhanu Chander and Jayapradha, with music by Vishal Chandrasekhar, cinematography by Sudeep Chatterjee and costumes by Sheetal Sharma.



ABC defends 'The View' in dispute over federal equal time rules



ABC has renewed its legal challenge against efforts by the Federal Communications Commission to reconsider whether its daytime talk show 'The View' should be subject to federal equal time rules. In a filing made public on Tuesday, the network argued that the commission had already settled the issue in 2002 by recognizing 'The View' as a bona fide news program, making it exempt from requirements that broadcasters provide equal airtime to competing political candidates. ABC contends that reopening the matter is an attempt to chill constitutionally protected free speech and limit open political discussion. The dispute comes amid broader tensions between United States media organizations and the Trump administration over press freedom and media regulation, with critics arguing that renewed scrutiny of the program could have wider implications for journalistic independence and political commentary on television.

Danny Boyle's 'Ink' to open Venice Film Festival



Danny Boyle's upcoming film 'Ink,' based on the rise of media tycoon Rupert Murdoch and former 'The Sun' editor Larry Lamb, will open the Venice International Film Festival on Wednesday. Festival organizers announced on Thursday that the film will compete for the Golden Lion at the festival's 83rd edition. Adapted from James Graham's acclaimed stage play, 'Ink' stars Guy Pearce as Murdoch, Jack O'Connell as Lamb and Claire Foy in a leading role. The film explores Murdoch's 1969 acquisition of 'The Sun' and its transformation into Britain's most influential tabloid. Boyle called the selection a "huge honor," saying the story examines how the newspaper reshaped modern media and public discourse.



IndoUS Tribune की विशेष श्रृंखला "भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा" के अंतर्गत हम आंध्र प्रदेश, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, असम और बिहार के अनेक दिव्य, ऐतिहासिक एवं आध्यात्मिक मंदिरों की यात्रा पूर्ण कर चुके हैं। इन यात्राओं ने हमें भारत की अद्भुत सांस्कृतिक विविधता, प्राचीन परंपराओं, लोक आस्थाओं और सनातन विरासत की गहराई को समझने का अवसर प्रदान किया है।

अब हमारी यह पावन यात्रा छत्तीसगढ़ की आध्यात्मिक भूमि पर आगे बढ़ रही है। इस अध्याय में हमने प्रथम पड़ाव पर माँ दंतेश्वरी मंदिर, दंतेवाड़ा के दिव्य शक्तिपीठ के दर्शन किए, दूसरे पड़ाव पर भोरमदेव मंदिर, कबीरधाम की अद्भुत नागर शैली की स्थापत्य कला का अवलोकन किया और तीसरे पड़ाव पर डोंगरगढ़ स्थित माँ बम्लेश्वरी मंदिर में शक्ति उपासना और प्रकृति के अनुपम संगम का अनुभव किया। अब **IndoUS Tribune** की यह आध्यात्मिक यात्रा अपने चौथे पड़ाव पर पहुँच चुकी है—राजिम स्थित प्राचीन श्री राजीव लोचन मंदिर, जहाँ भगवान विष्णु के कमलनयन स्वरूप की आराधना, त्रिवेणी संगम की पवित्रता और हजारों वर्षों की धार्मिक विरासत आज भी जीवंत दिखाई देती है।



छत्तीसगढ़ का प्रयाग – त्रिवेणी संगम पर स्थित दिव्य धाम
राजिम, महानदी, पैरी और सोंदूर नदियों के पवित्र त्रिवेणी संगम पर स्थित है। तीन पवित्र नदियों के इस संगम के कारण इसे श्रद्धापूर्वक "छत्तीसगढ़ का प्रयाग" कहा जाता है। इसी पावन भूमि पर स्थित है आठवीं शताब्दी का राजीव लोचन मंदिर, जो भगवान विष्णु के "राजीव लोचन" अर्थात् कमल के समान सुंदर नेत्रों वाले स्वरूप को समर्पित है। सदियों से यह मंदिर वैष्णव श्रद्धालुओं का प्रमुख तीर्थ रहा है और जगन्नाथ पुरी धाम की यात्रा करने वाले भक्तों के लिए भी यह एक महत्वपूर्ण पड़ाव माना जाता है।

इतिहास के पन्नों में अंकित गौरवशाली विरासत
मंदिर परिसर में प्राप्त प्राचीन शिलालेख बताते हैं कि इसका निर्माण नल वंश के राजा विलासतुंग ने सातवीं-आठवीं शताब्दी के दौरान अपने पुत्र की स्मृति में कराया था। बाद में सोमवंशी तथा कलचुरी शासकों ने भी मंदिर के विस्तार और संरक्षण में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया। वर्ष 1145 ईस्वी के एक अभिलेख में कलचुरी सामंत जगपालदेव द्वारा कराए गए निर्माण कार्यों का उल्लेख मिलता है।

कुछ इतिहासकार इसकी मूल संरचना को पाँचवीं शताब्दी

तक पुराना मानते हैं, जबकि अधिकांश विद्वान इसे सातवीं और आठवीं शताब्दी के बीच निर्मित मानते हैं। समय-समय पर हुए जीर्णोद्धार के कारण यह मंदिर आज भी अपनी भव्यता और प्राचीन स्वरूप को सुरक्षित रखे हुए है।

पंचायतन शैली की अनुपम स्थापत्य कला
राजीव लोचन मंदिर भारतीय मंदिर वास्तुकला का उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण है। यह पंचायतन शैली में निर्मित है, जिसमें मुख्य मंदिर के चारों कोनों पर चार उपमंदिर स्थापित हैं। ये भगवान विष्णु के नृसिंह, वामन, वराह और बद्रीनाथ स्वरूपों को समर्पित हैं।

ऊँचे चबूतरे पर निर्मित मंदिर में विशाल मंडप, अंतराल और गर्भगृह है। गर्भगृह के ऊपर स्थित पिरामिडाकार शिखर बिहार के प्रसिद्ध महाबोधि मंदिर की स्थापत्य शैली से साम्य रखता है। मंदिर के अलंकृत द्वार, स्तंभ और दीवारों पर भगवान विष्णु, लक्ष्मी, शिव, गंगा, यमुना, दुर्गा, वराह, नृसिंह तथा अनेक देवी-देवताओं और पौराणिक पात्रों की अद्भुत नक्काशी भारतीय शिल्पकला की उच्चतम परंपरा का परिचय देती है।

विशेष बात यह भी है कि मंदिर परिसर में भगवान बुद्ध की एक प्राचीन प्रतिमा भी स्थापित है, जो उस युग में विभिन्न धार्मिक परंपराओं के सह-अस्तित्व और सांस्कृतिक समन्वय का प्रतीक मानी जाती है।

भगवान राजीव लोचन की दिव्य कथा
इस मंदिर से अनेक पौराणिक कथाएँ जुड़ी हुई हैं। एक मान्यता के अनुसार इसका निर्माण स्वयं देवशिल्पी भगवान विश्वकर्मा ने किया था। दूसरी कथा के अनुसार पौराणिक राजा जगतपाल ने इस भव्य मंदिर का निर्माण एक ही रात में करा दिया।

सबसे प्रसिद्ध कथा भगवान विष्णु के परम भक्त रत्नाकर से संबंधित है। कहा जाता है कि रत्नाकर ने वर्षों तक भगवान विष्णु की कठोर तपस्या की। उनकी भक्ति से प्रसन्न होकर भगवान विष्णु राजीव लोचन स्वरूप में प्रकट हुए। जब भगवान ने वरदान माँगने को कहा तो रत्नाकर ने प्रार्थना की कि प्रभु सदैव इसी स्वरूप में इस स्थान पर विराजमान रहें। तभी से यह स्थान राजीव लोचन धाम के रूप में प्रसिद्ध हो गया।

राजिम कुंभ – छत्तीसगढ़ का आध्यात्मिक महोत्सव
त्रिवेणी संगम के कारण राजिम केवल एक तीर्थ नहीं, बल्कि पूरे छत्तीसगढ़ का प्रमुख आध्यात्मिक केंद्र है। प्रत्येक वर्ष माघ पूर्णिमा से प्रारंभ होने वाला राजिम कुंभ (राजिम कल्प) राज्य के सबसे बड़े धार्मिक आयोजनों में से एक है। इस अवसर पर देशभर से हजारों साधु-संत, श्रद्धालु और पर्यटक यहाँ एकत्र होकर संगम में पवित्र स्नान करते हैं तथा भगवान राजीव लोचन के दर्शन कर आध्यात्मिक पुण्य प्राप्त करते हैं।

सनातन संस्कृति की अमूल्य धरोहर
राजीव लोचन मंदिर केवल भगवान विष्णु का प्राचीन मंदिर ही नहीं, बल्कि भारत की हजारों वर्षों पुरानी धार्मिक परंपरा, स्थापत्य कला, सांस्कृतिक समन्वय और आध्यात्मिक चेतना का जीवंत प्रतीक है। इसकी भव्य मूर्तिकला, ऐतिहासिक अभिलेख, त्रिवेणी संगम का दिव्य वातावरण और राजिम कुंभ की परंपरा इसे छत्तीसगढ़ के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण वैष्णव तीर्थों में स्थान दिलाती है।

यात्रा आगे बढ़ती है...
IndoUS Tribune की "भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा – छत्तीसगढ़ अध्याय" का यह चौथा पड़ाव हमें यह अनुभव कराता है कि छत्तीसगढ़ की आध्यात्मिक विरासत केवल शक्ति उपासना तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि यहाँ वैष्णव, शैव और शाक्त परंपराओं का अद्भुत संगम देखने को मिलता है। राजिम का राजीव लोचन मंदिर हमें इतिहास, आस्था, स्थापत्य कला और सांस्कृतिक समृद्धि का ऐसा दर्शन कराता है जो सदियों से भारत की सनातन परंपरा को जीवंत बनाए हुए है। माँ दंतेश्वरी की शक्ति, भोरमदेव की अद्भुत स्थापत्य विरासत, माँ बम्लेश्वरी की दिव्य आराधना और अब राजिम के भगवान राजीव लोचन के दर्शन के साथ हमारी यह आध्यात्मिक यात्रा एक और महत्वपूर्ण पड़ाव पूर्ण करती है।

अब **IndoUS Tribune** की यह पावन यात्रा आगे बढ़ेगी अपने पाँचवें पड़ाव की ओर—महादेव मंदिर, देवबलोदा, जहाँ भगवान शिव की प्राचीन आराधना, उत्कृष्ट शिल्पकला और छत्तीसगढ़ की समृद्ध शैव परंपरा की एक नई और प्रेरणादायक गाथा हमारा इंतजार कर रही है।

बाल्मीकि रामायण में छिपे कुछ विरले प्रसंग

हनुमान जी का बचपन

रामचरितमानस में हनुमान जी के जन्म या बचपन के बारे में कोई उल्लेख नहीं है। मानस में हनुमानजी का प्रवेश पहली बार किष्किन्धा काण्ड में तब होता है, जब रामजी और लखन सीता को खोजते खोजते ऋषयमूक पर्वत के निकट जा पहुँचते हैं। उन्हें देख, पर्वत पर बैठे सुग्रीव को चिंता होती है, तब वह हनुमान जी को, इन दोनों वीर योद्धाओं की असलियत जानने के लिए, भेजते हैं। हनुमान जी एक ब्राह्मण का वेश बना, राम लखन से उनका परिचय पूछने के लिए प्रगट होते हैं।

**को तुम्ह स्यामल गौर सरीरा,
छत्रीरूप फिरहु बन बीरा**

हनुमान जी उनके दिव्य स्वरूप को देख मन्त्रमुग्ध हो जाते हैं और पूछ बैठते हैं ?

**मृदुल मनोहर सुन्दर गाता,
सहत दुसह बन आतप बाता
कि तुम्ह तीनि देव महँ कोऊ,
नर नारायण की तुम्ह दोऊ**

प्रभु राम की असलियत जान, हनुमान जी दोनों भाइयों को सुग्रीव के पास ले जाते हैं, उन दोनों की मित्रता करवाते हैं। और उसके बाद, सुग्रीव अपने दल बल के साथ, रामजी के साथ मिल कर, सीता खोज अभियान में पूरी तरह से सम्मिलित हो जाते हैं।

लेकिन वाल्मीकि रामायण के उत्तरकाण्ड में हनुमान जी के जन्म और उनके बचपन को लेकर विस्तार से चर्चा है। एक बार रामजी के दरबार में ऋषि अगस्त्य आये, तो चर्चा हनुमान जी को लेकर आरम्भ हो गई। रामजी हनुमान जी के प्रति बड़े कृतज्ञ भाव से, उनकी हर प्रकार की सहायता की, प्रशंसा करते जा रहे थे। ऋषि अगस्त्य ने रामजी से पूछा, क्या आप उनके बचपन के बारे जानना चाहते हैं ? रामजी के आग्रह पर ऋषि अगस्त्य हनुमान जी का पावन चरित सुनाने लगे।

ऋषि अगस्त्य हनुमान जी की कहानी सुनाने लगे:
ऋषि कहने लगे, हम सब भली भाँति जानते हैं कि, हनुमान जी वायुदेव महाराज केसरी और उनकी पत्नी अंजना के दिव्य पुत्र हैं। इसीलिए मारुति नन्दन भी कहा जाता है। मारुति का अर्थ है, वायुदेव। वायुदेव के पुत्र पवनपुत्र भी कहे जाते हैं। हनुमान जी में बचपन से ही बहुत सी दिव्य शक्तियाँ थीं। ऋषि अगस्त्य ने आगे बताया:

**सत्यमेतद्रघुश्रेष्ठ यदूबवीषि हनूमतः ।
न बले विद्यते तुल्या न गता न मता परः ॥ १५ ॥**

हनुमान जी में अद्भुत बल बुद्धि एवं तीव्र गति थी। इन सब क्षेत्रों में हनुमान जी की बराबरी कोई और नहीं



कर पाता था। ऋषि ने आगे बताया-

सुमेरु नाम का एक स्वर्णमय पर्वत था। उस पर केसरी नाम के एक महान राजा राज्य करते थे। उनकी पत्नी का नाम अंजना था। बहुत तपस्या के बाद, अंजना के गर्भ से एक दिव्य बालक का जन्म हुआ। उसका नाम हनुमान रखा गया। जब हनुमान जी छोटे थे, तो एक दिन उनकी माता अंजना, वन में फल लेने गई और देर तक नहीं लौटी।

**शालिशूकनिभाभासं प्रासूतेमं तदाऽञ्जना । र
फलान्याहतकामा वै निष्क्रान्ता गहनेचरा ॥ २१ ॥**

जब माँ देर तक नहीं लौटी तो, बालक हनुमान को भूख लगी। खाना न मिलने पर वह जोर जोर से रोने लगे। सामने उन्हें लाल रंग का सूर्य उदित होता दिखाई पड़ा। उन्होंने उसे एक फल समझ लिया और उसे पाने के लिए उसकी ओर उड़ चले। वह उसे अपने मुख में डालना चाहते थे।

**बालाकाभियुखो बालो बाळक इव मूर्तिमान ।
ग्रहीतुकामो बालाक झुवतेऽम्बरमध्यगः ॥ २४ ॥**

पर सूर्य तो काफी दूर थे। हनुमान जी उसे पाने की कोशिश में उसकी ओर तेजी से उड़ने लगे। यह बहुत ही अद्भुत दृश्य था। जब देवताओं ने इस दृश्य को देखा तो, उन्हें बड़ा विस्मय हुआ। वह सब सोचने लगे कि, यह वेग तो बड़ा अद्भुत है। हमने ऐसा वेग किसी और देव या मनुष्य में नहीं देखा। यह तो अभी बालक है और इसकी गति इतनी तीव्र है, जब यह युवा हो

जायेगा, तब इसका वेग तो अद्वितीय होगा। इस दृश्य को हनुमान जी के पिता केसरी ने भी देखा। वह पुत्र की कुशलता को लेकर चिंतित हो गए। उन्हें लगा कि, अगर यह सूर्य के अधिक निकट गया तो, सूर्य के तेज से झुलस भी सकता है।

**तमनुपुवते वायुः पुवन्त पुत्रमात्मानः ।
सर्वदाहभयादक्षस्तुपावचयशी तल! ॥ २८ ॥**

उन्होंने अपने पुत्र को बचाने के लिए, वायुदेव केसरी भी हनुमान के पीछे पीछे चलने लगे। साथ ही उन्होंने अपनी वायु को बर्फ जैसा सर्द बना दिया। इधर जब सूर्यदेव ने इस बालक हनुमान को अपनी ओर आते देखा तो वह भी सजग हो गए। वह विचार करने लगे कि, यह अबोध बालक, जिसे अभी अपने अच्छे बुरे का ज्ञान नहीं है, इसे बचाना चाहिए। इसके साथ साथ उन्होंने अपने दिव्य ज्ञान से यह पता लगा लिया कि, आगे चलकर इनको रामजी के बहुत से आवश्यक कार्य भी करने हैं

उस उद्देश्य को मध्य रख, हनुमान जी की हर प्रकार से रक्षा होनी चाहिए। बालमीकि रामायण के एक और प्रसंग के अनुसार, जब हनुमान जी सूर्य को निगलने जा रहे थे, तो उसी समय राहु भी सूर्य ग्रहण के लिए उद्भूत हो रहा था।

**यमेव दिवसं होष ग्रहीतुं भास्करं प्लुतः ।
तमेव दिवसं राहुर्जिघृक्षति दिवाकरम् ॥ ३१ ॥
अनेन च परामृष्टो राहुः सूयरथापरि ।
अपक्रान्तस्ततस्त्रस्तो राहुयन्द्राकमदनः ॥ ३२ ॥**

लेकिन जैसे ही हनुमान जी ने सूर्य देव के रथ के ऊपरी भाग को स्पर्श किया, तो राहु भयभीत हो कर वहाँ से भाग खड़ा हुआ। राहु देवराज इन्द्र के पास सहायता माँगने जा पहुँचा। महाराज इन्द्र अपने एरावत पर सवार हो, मदद करने चल पड़े। उन्होंने अपने शस्त्र वज्र का प्रयोग किया, जो हनुमान जी की टुट्टी पर जा लगा। इसलिए आज भी हनुमान जी की टुट्टी पर उस घाव के निशान शेष हैं।

जैसे इंद्र में वर्षा को रोक कर प्रजा को परेशान करने की ताकत थी, वैसे ही, केसरी महाराज मारुति में भी, पवन के वेग को रोक, प्रजा के लिए परेशानी उत्पन्न करने की क्षमता थी। इस घटना के दौरान, देवराज इन्द्र से नाराज होकर, जब मारुति ने पवन को रोका, तो चारों ओर त्राहि त्राहि मच गई। बाकी सभी देवता, वायुदेव केसरी के सम्मुख आ क्षमा याचना करने लगे।

जनहित की दुहाई दे कर, उन्हें अपनी गति को पुनः प्रवाहित करने की प्रार्थना करने लगे। महाराज केसरी तुरन्त प्रसन्न हो गए, और अपनी गति से सभी के प्राणों के रक्षक बन गए।

**राहोर्वचनमास्थाय ततः स कुपितोऽनिलः ।
अशरीर! शरीरिषु वायुश्चरति पाळयन् ॥ ६० ॥
शरीरं हि विना वायं समतां याति दारुभिः वायः प्राणः
सुखं बायवार्धुः सवेमिदं जगत ॥ ६१ ॥**

केसरी महाराज ने सबको बताया कि, अब से वह सूक्ष्म रूप से (अशरीरी भाव) से सभी प्राणियों में, श्वास रूप में विद्यमान रहेंगे। हम सब जानते हैं कि, तब से यही वायु ही, इस जगत का आधार है। वायु के बिना जीवन के अस्तित्व की कल्पना भी नहीं की जा सकती। और इस प्रकार, हनुमान जी के बचपन के इन प्रसंगों के कारण, हनुमान जी पवनपुत्र कहाए जाने लगे। और सभी उनकी शक्ति एवं गति का लोहा मानने लगे।

युवावस्था में, जब हनुमान जी रामजी से मिले, तो सीता जी की खोज के लिए इसी गति का प्रयोग कर, महा पयोधि लाँघ गए। जब राम रावण युद्ध के बीच, लक्ष्मण जी मूर्छित हो गए, तो हनुमान जी अपनी तीव्र गति से हिमालय से संजीवनी बूटी उठा लाए। हनुमान जी बल बुद्धि में भी सबसे अग्रणी हैं। भक्तों का कोई ऐसा काम नहीं, जो हनुमान जी पूरा नहीं कर सकते। इसीलिए तुलसी बाबा ने हनुमान जी के बारे में लिखा:

**कवन सो काज कठिन जग माहि,
जो नहीं तात होई तुम्ह पाहि**

और हनुमान जी भी रामकाज का नाम सुनते ही तत्पर हो उठते हैं:

**रामकाज लगी तव अवतारा,
सुनतहि भयहु परवता कारा**

रामभक्त हनुमान जी को मेरा सादर प्रणाम.
जय श्री राम !!!



Rajendra Kapil
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The Hawk Has Fallen

Lindsey Graham's complex legacy of power, pragmatism, and Pax Americana

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

The sudden death of U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham at age 71 marks the end of an era in American politics. His passing removes one of the most recognizable and divisive architects of modern Washington. For decades, the South Carolina R A Global Hawk in a Changing World epublican masterfully navigated the shifts of political power, proving himself a consummate political survivor.

Yet, to understand Graham is to examine a profound contradiction: a public career defined by ideological fluidity, contrasted against a private life anchored by deep, unshakeable devotion.

The chameleon of Capitol Hill

To his critics, Graham was the ultimate political weathervane, a man who consistently bent his principles to whichever way the populist wind blew. He began his national career as a mainstream conservative institutionalist. Alongside his close friend and late mentor, Senator John McCain, Graham was a pragmatist. He frequently reached across the aisle to champion comprehensive immigration reform and global democratic alliances.

However, his most famous—and to many, confounding—transformation occurred after 2016. During that presidential primary, Graham fiercely denounced Donald Trump as a "xenophobic, race-baiting, religious bigot." Yet, following Trump's victory, Graham completed a near-total ideological flip, evolving into one of Trump's most fiercely loyal defenders.

This pragmatism was not born out of cowardice, but out of a calculated philosophy of power. Graham understood that in a hyper-polarized, Trump-centric Republican Party, a senator without access to the Oval Office was a senator without relevance. To maintain his seat on the world stage, he sacrificed his old institutionalist brand to become a populist whisperer.

A global hawk in a changing world

On the world stage, Graham was the last prominent member of the old-guard GOP defense hawks. He believed fiercely in Pax Americana—the idea that global security requires assertive, interventionist American military power.

His final hours perfectly encapsulated this lifelong mission. Just one day before his fatal aortic dissection in Washington, Graham was in Kyiv, meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to lobby for stricter sanctions against Russia and a surge in military aid. He was a vocal champion for sustained military funding in Kyiv,



a staunch defender of Israel through deep global conflicts, and a constant proponent of aggressive economic pressure on Moscow.

His death leaves a massive void in international diplomacy. For allies like Ukraine and Israel, Graham was a reliable conduit to a Trump administration that is otherwise skeptical of foreign entanglements. Moscow and other adversarial capitals are already eyeing his absence as an opportunity to weaken American resolve abroad.

The bipartisan chorus: Praise, grief, and scorn

The reaction to Graham's passing on Capitol Hill perfectly mirrors his complicated double-life as both a consensus-builder and a fierce partisan warrior. The halls of Congress have seen a flood of deeply emotional, yet highly conflicted responses from both sides of the aisle.

Conservative allies praised Graham as an indispensable strategist and a warrior for American strength. Longtime colleagues lauded his razor-sharp wit, his masterclass backroom dealmaking, and his absolute refusal to let America retreat from the global stage. Trump loyalists highlighted his pivotal role in reshaping the federal judiciary, particularly his fiery defense of Brett Kavanaugh, which cemented his status as a conservative folk hero.

Behind closed doors, many Democrats privately mourned the loss of a senator who, despite his intense partisan

rhetoric, was still willing to cut a deal. Moderate Democrats recalled his past willingness to negotiate on judicial nominees and climate policy, calling him one of the last remaining bridges to an older, more functional Washington.

Conversely, the public post-mortems were not entirely gentle, with critics viewing him as a tragic symbol of political compromise and survival who fueled the flames of tribal polarization. Progressive critics lambasted him as an unprincipled opportunist who traded his institutional integrity to appease Donald Trump's base. Simultaneously, anti-interventionist "America First" populists within his own party criticized his hawkish foreign policy, viewing his final trip to Ukraine as a relic of an outdated, costly globalism.

The private crucible and the final appointment

While Graham's public life was an ever-shifting kaleidoscope, his personal foundation was remarkably steady. When he was just 21 years old and attending university, both of his parents died within 15 months of each other. Left with nothing but a family bar and a teenage sister, Darline, Graham stepped up. He legally adopted his younger sister to ensure she had health benefits and financial security, raising her while simultaneously completing law school and joining the Air Force.

Graham never married and had no children; his sister and his career were his entire world. In a poetic yet highly controversial twist of fate, following his

sudden death, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster appointed that very sister, Darline Graham Nordone, to fill his vacant Senate seat.

While the appointment has drawn intense criticism for nepotism and her lack of political experience, it underscores the deeply personal, clannish nature of South Carolina politics—and serves as a final, ironic tribute to the sister he protected his entire life.

The rupture of the commons

Even in death, Graham remains a lightning rod for America's fractured culture. The hours following his passing were marred by ugly partisan celebration on social media and unverified conspiracy theories hinting at foul play given his recent travel to Ukraine.

Whether one admired Lindsey Graham or opposed him, few could deny his influence. His career mirrored the transformation of the Republican Party—from the internationalism of Ronald Reagan and John McCain to the populism of Donald Trump. He survived every political realignment not because he resisted change, but because he adapted to it. Supporters will remember him as a patriot who remained effective in turbulent times. Critics will remember him as a politician who placed access to power above ideological consistency. History will likely remember him as both—a gifted legislator, a relentless political survivor, and one of the defining figures in the evolution of twenty-first century American conservatism.

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

ELAD STROHMAYER

ON INDIA, ISRAEL AND A CHANGING MIDDLE EAST

As the Middle East undergoes one of its most consequential strategic realignments in decades, the relationship between India and Israel is entering a new phase shaped by shared security concerns, technological collaboration, and expanding economic opportunities.

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Against the backdrop of shifting regional dynamics following Israel's recent military campaign against Iran, questions surrounding diplomacy, regional stability, and emerging partnerships have taken on renewed significance. In an exclusive conversation with Dr. Avi Verma, Publisher of IndoUS Tribune, Elad Strohmayer, Israel's Consul General to the Midwest, discusses the impact of the Iran conflict, the changing balance of power in the Middle East, and why he believes the India-Israel partnership is poised for even greater growth. From regional security and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) to entrepreneurship, innovation, and people-to-people ties, Strohmayer outlines his vision for deeper cooperation among India, Israel, and the United States.

Discussing Israel's military campaign against Iran, Strohmayer said the operation had achieved one of its principal objectives by forcing Tehran back to the negotiating table while substantially reducing its ability to threaten Israel. "It was very successful because that's what brought Iran to the negotiating table," Strohmayer said. "Iran was very weakened. Its launching capabilities toward Israel have been severely damaged. They haven't been eliminated completely, but they have been significantly reduced."

He added that the campaign had also set back Iran's nuclear program and stressed that the international community must ensure Tehran is unable to rebuild those capabilities. "The job now is to make sure this regime cannot threaten Israel, the Middle East, the United States or the wider world again," he said.

Strohmayer believes the regional balance of power is beginning to shift, pointing to direct engagement between Israel and Lebanon as evidence of changing dynamics in the Middle East. According to him, countries in the region increasingly recognize that Iranian influence, particularly through Hezbollah, has contributed to prolonged instability.

"A weakened Iran has created opportunities for countries in the region to work together," he said. "Israel is increasingly viewed as a moderate force standing against extremism."

Turning to India, Strohmayer described the India-Israel relationship as one built on shared history, democratic values, and a common outlook for the future. "We're remarkably similar countries," he said. "We both gained independence around the same period after colonial rule. We respect our history and traditions while looking toward the future through innovation and technology."



“

STROHMAYER DESCRIBED THE INDIA-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP AS ONE BUILT ON SHARED HISTORY, DEMOCRATIC VALUES, AND A COMMON OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE.

He said both nations have emerged as global centers of entrepreneurship and innovation, creating a strong foundation for expanding cooperation in technology, security, trade, education, and research.

Strohmayer also highlighted the United States as an important partner in strengthening this relationship. "When you bring the United States into the equation, the possibilities become even greater," he said.

Among the initiatives he believes could reshape regional cooperation is the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), which seeks to improve trade and connectivity between India and Europe through the Middle East.

According to Strohmayer, the proposed corridor would strengthen supply chains, facilitate commerce, and contribute to greater

economic stability by connecting India with moderate partners across the region.

He also underscored the significance of the I2U2 grouping, comprising India, Israel, the United States, and the United Arab Emirates, describing it as an example of how strategic partnerships can address shared challenges. "If moderate countries work together, we can fight extremism, promote innovation and create a better future for the next generation," he said.

Beyond government-to-government engagement, Strohmayer believes lasting partnerships are built through stronger connections between people. He praised the growing interaction between the Indian and Jewish communities in the United States, noting that both communities increasingly participate in one another's cultural celebrations, including India's Republic Day, Israel's Independence Day, and Hanukkah events.

"Our countries already have an excellent relationship," he said. "There is every reason for our communities in the United States to enjoy the same close friendship."

While cultural exchanges remain important, he believes the next phase of cooperation should focus on entrepreneurs, innovators, researchers, and business leaders working together to create tangible economic opportunities. "If Israeli and Indian entrepreneurs work together, we won't just be celebrating our friendship—we'll be building businesses, developing technologies and improving lives," he said.

He encouraged entrepreneurs interested in collaborating with Israeli companies to reach out to the Consulate, saying his office remains committed to fostering new commercial partnerships. Reflecting on the broader India-Israel relationship, Strohmayer said both countries understand the challenges posed by terrorism and remain committed to democratic values, security, innovation, and long-term cooperation.

As the conversation concluded, he emphasized the importance of unity at a time of increasing polarization around the world. "There are many loud extremist voices trying to divide people," he said. "We should not allow that to happen. There is far more that brings us together than separates us."

Looking ahead, Strohmayer expressed confidence that closer collaboration among India, Israel, and the United States could drive meaningful advances in technology, economic development, and regional stability.

"If we continue strengthening our partnerships, supporting one another and focusing on our shared values," he said, "the sky is the limit."



U.S. Senate unanimously opposes any pardon for FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried

Bipartisan resolution sends strong message on accountability, financial fraud, and rule of law

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

In a rare display of bipartisan agreement, the United States Senate has unanimously passed a non-binding resolution declaring that convicted cryptocurrency fraudster Sam Bankman-Fried, the founder of collapsed crypto exchange FTX, should not receive a presidential pardon, sentence commutation, or any form of federal executive clemency. The resolution, introduced by Senator Ruben Gallego (D-Arizona) and co-sponsored by Senator Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyoming), reflects growing concern among lawmakers that granting clemency to Bankman-Fried would undermine public confidence in the justice system and weaken accountability for large-scale financial crimes.

Although the Senate resolution carries no legal authority and cannot restrict the constitutional pardon power of the president, it represents a powerful political statement from lawmakers across party lines.

From crypto billionaire to federal prison sentence

Sam Bankman-Fried, once considered one of the most influential figures in the cryptocurrency industry, co-founded FTX in 2019 and built the company into one of the world's largest digital



asset exchanges. The company collapsed dramatically in November 2022, triggering one of the biggest financial scandals in cryptocurrency history. Federal prosecutors accused Bankman-Fried of using billions of dollars in FTX customer deposits through affiliated trading firm Alameda Research for investments, political contributions, real estate purchases, and other purposes. A federal jury convicted Bankman-Fried in 2023 on multiple fraud and conspiracy charges. In March 2024, he was sentenced to 25 years in federal prison after prosecutors argued that the scheme caused billions of dollars in losses to customers, investors, and lenders. The resolution reaffirmed the Senate's position that Bankman-Fried should not receive executive clemency, citing the seriousness

of the crimes and the extensive financial harm suffered by victims.

Pardon speculation raises political debate

The Senate action comes amid reports that Bankman-Fried has sought presidential clemency and has publicly challenged the legitimacy of his conviction, including characterizing his prosecution as "lawfare." Supporters of the resolution rejected that argument, noting that Bankman-Fried was convicted by a federal jury after a trial based on evidence presented in court.

Senator Gallego argued that the issue was not about politics but about protecting the integrity of America's financial system and ensuring that powerful individuals are held accountable. Senator Lummis, who has been involved in cryptocurrency policy discussions, also supported the resolution despite her broader interest in digital asset regulation.

A message to financial markets

The Senate resolution also carries significance beyond the individual case. Lawmakers emphasized that accountability in financial crimes is essential to maintaining trust in American markets.

The collapse of FTX damaged confidence in the rapidly growing

cryptocurrency sector and led to renewed calls for stronger oversight, transparency requirements, and consumer protections.

For customers who lost access to funds during the FTX collapse, the Senate vote represents a symbolic acknowledgment of their losses and a reminder that financial innovation cannot come at the expense of basic safeguards.

Constitutional limits and political impact

Under the U.S. Constitution, the president retains broad authority to issue pardons and commutations for federal offenses. A Senate resolution cannot legally prevent a president from exercising that power. However, the unanimous Senate vote sends a strong political signal that lawmakers across party lines oppose executive clemency for Bankman-Fried. It signals that any future clemency decision involving Bankman-Fried would face scrutiny from lawmakers who view the FTX collapse as a defining example of corporate and financial misconduct.

The vote also highlights a broader debate in Washington: whether presidential clemency should be used primarily for correcting judicial errors and cases involving excessive punishment, or whether it can extend to high-profile individuals convicted of serious economic crimes.

Chicago celebrates Chinmaya Mission's 75th anniversary with grand Hanuman Chalisa Mahayajna

By: Dr. Avi Verma

Thousands of devotees gathered on Saturday as Chinmaya Mission Chicago marked the 75th anniversary of Chinmaya Mission with a grand Hanuman Chalisa Mahayajna, bringing together Hindu organizations from across Chicagoland and the Midwest in a remarkable celebration of devotion, faith, and unity.

The centerpiece of the event was the collective recitation of the 'Shri Hanuman Chalisa' 21 times by 21 groups representing various Dharmic organizations. The Mahayajna was

dedicated to invoking Lord Hanuman's blessings for global peace, harmony, and the well-being of humanity.

The celebration was graced by Swami Swaroopananda, Global Head of Chinmaya Mission, who highlighted the spiritual significance of hosting the Mahayajna in Chicago.

He explained that "'Chi' signifies energy, which comes from Prana, and Prana originates from Vayu (wind)," making Chicago, the Windy City, a fitting place to honor Vayuputra Hanuman.

Sanjay and his wife served as the Mukhya Yajamans for the Mahayajna, participating in all 21 recitations and



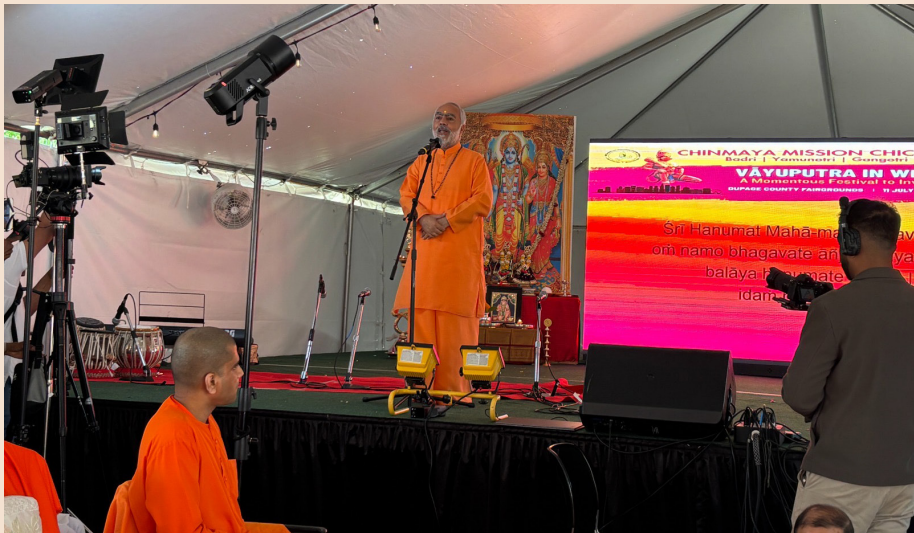
offering ahuti after each chanting. They described the experience as a profound spiritual blessing.

The Mahotsav was organized under the leadership of Rajul Bhalala and the dedicated team at Chinmaya Mission Chicago. Organizers said preparations took more than a year and involved the efforts of numerous volunteers, with support from several local Hindu organizations.

The event attracted thousands of devotees, reflecting the growing spirit

of faith, service, and community among Hindus across the Midwest. Marking a significant milestone in Chinmaya Mission's global journey, the celebration reaffirmed the organization's commitment to Sanatana Dharma, spiritual education, and selfless service.

Participants praised the Mission for bringing the Hindu community together through prayer, devotion, and cultural heritage, expressing hope that Lord Hanuman's blessings will continue to inspire strength, wisdom, humility, and unwavering faith.







जय माता दी

JAI JAGDAMBE FOUNDATION
Serving the Hindu Community over 2 Decades

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Mata Bhagat: Avi Verma



Devotion and community spirit mark Shri Ganesh Mahotsav and Hanuman temple havan in Ludhiana

By: Dr. Avi Verma

A series of spiritually uplifting events drew large gatherings of devotees across Ludhiana as Shri Siddhi Vinayak Mandir, New Maya Nagar, and Siddh Peeth Mahabali Sankatmochan Shri Hanuman Mandir, Joshi Nagar Dham, organized major religious programs celebrating Sanatan traditions, devotion, and community harmony.

Shri Ganesh Mahotsav celebrations

As part of the 23rd Annual Shri Ganesh Mahotsav, Shri Siddhi Vinayak Mandir successfully organized the first and second weekly palki yatra of Lord Shri Siddhi Vinayak with great religious fervor and enthusiasm.

The beautifully decorated palki carrying the idol of Lord Ganesha passed through various neighborhoods of Haibowal Kalan, Baba Colony, Durga Puri, and New Maya Nagar amid continuous chants of "Ganpati Bappa Morya."

The yatra commenced with Ganesh Vandana and devotional kirtan, after which the palki was ceremonially taken through the locality. At several locations along the route, devotees welcomed the procession with flower showers, traditional aarti, and offerings of laddoos, creating a vibrant atmosphere of faith and celebration.

The weekly processions concluded with devotional prayers at designated host residences, where devotees sought the blessings of Lord Ganesha for peace, prosperity, and happiness.

The temple management stated that the annual Ganesh Mahotsav has become an important platform for preserving Sanatan values, Indian traditions, and cultural heritage while inspiring younger generations to remain



connected with their religious roots. They emphasized that such celebrations not only strengthen devotion but also foster unity, harmony, and collective

participation within society.

The second palki yatra was attended by several distinguished guests from

religious and social organizations, who appreciated the temple's continued efforts in promoting Hindu culture and religious awareness. They noted that the temple has been playing a significant role in spreading spiritual values and encouraging community participation through its year-round religious activities.

Hanuman temple continues weekly Havan Yajna tradition

Meanwhile, Siddh Peeth Mahabali Sankatmochan Shri Hanuman Mandir organized its 1,353rd consecutive weekly Havan Yajna, continuing a remarkable tradition of uninterrupted Vedic worship.

The sacred fire ritual was performed according to Vedic customs by the temple priests, with devotees offering oblations while praying for world peace, national progress, family well-being, and universal welfare.

Addressing the gathering, the temple management described the Havan Yajna as one of the most precious traditions of Sanatan Dharma, emphasizing that it is not merely a religious ritual but a sacred practice dedicated to the welfare of humanity, harmony in society, and environmental balance.

They encouraged devotees, particularly the younger generation, to actively participate in such spiritual traditions to preserve India's rich cultural and religious heritage for future generations.

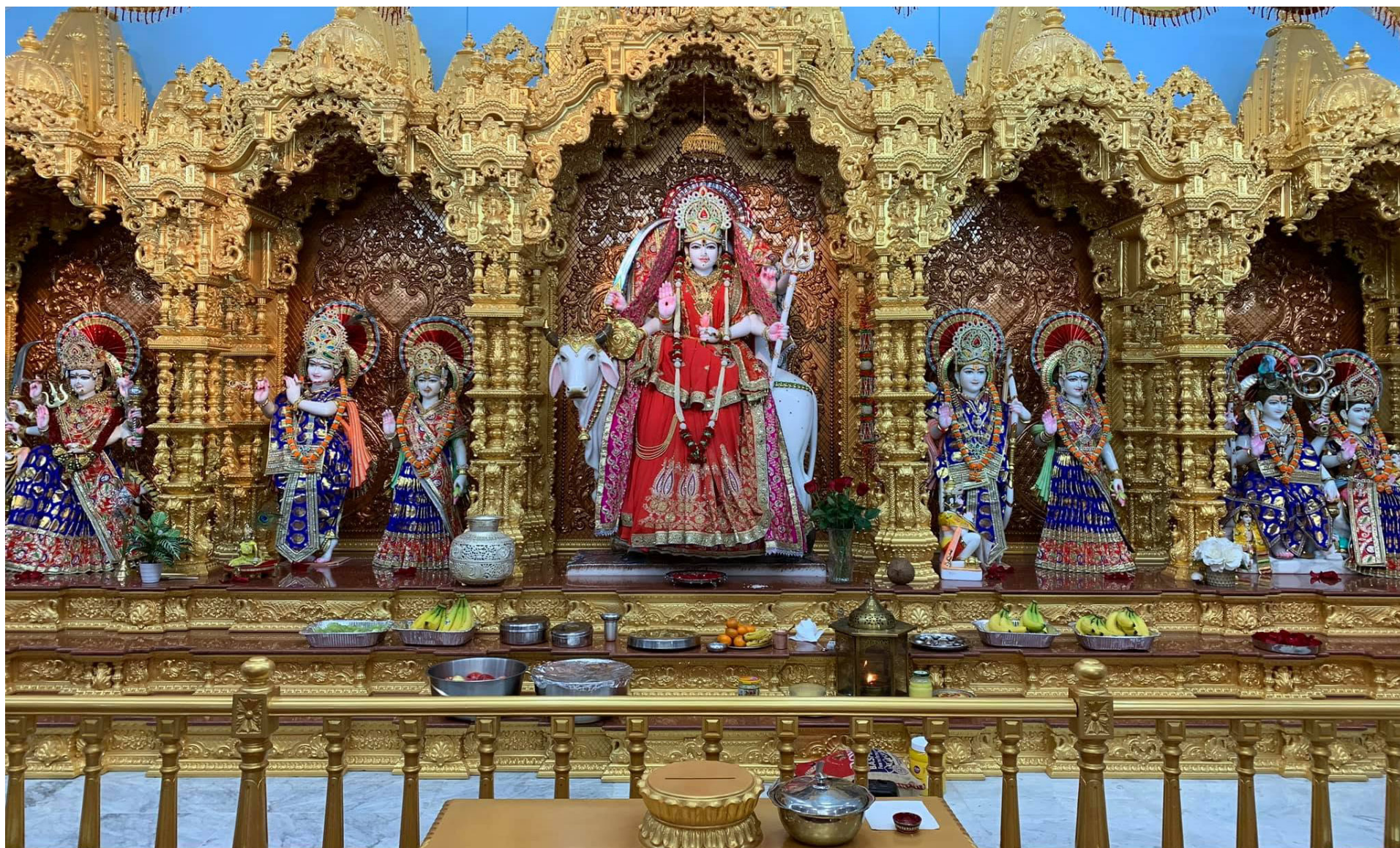
Community participation strengthens Sanatan traditions

Both events witnessed an overwhelming turnout of devotees, reflecting the community's deep faith and commitment to preserving timeless Hindu traditions.

Organizers expressed gratitude to all volunteers, devotees, and well-wishers whose enthusiastic participation contributed to the success of the religious programs, reaffirming the enduring spirit of devotion and unity that continues to strengthen the social and spiritual fabric of the region.



Hindu congregation files federal lawsuit seeking to clear path for Elgin temple project



● By: Dr. Avi Verma

A Hindu congregation has filed a federal lawsuit seeking to overturn a nearly 60-year-old court order that it says has become the final obstacle preventing construction of a major Hindu temple and community complex in Elgin.

Umiya Mataji Sansthan Chicago Midwest (UMSCM) filed the lawsuit on July 14 in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois against the City of Elgin and more than 200 neighboring property owners, challenging a 1967 Cook County Circuit Court consent decree that restricts its 34-acre property at 890 Galt Boulevard to industrial use.

The congregation argues that the decades-old land-use restriction violates its constitutional right to religious freedom under the First Amendment and conflicts with the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), a federal civil rights law that protects religious institutions from discriminatory land-use regulations.

Represented by Chicago law firm Mauck & Baker, UMSCM contends that the consent decree has prevented both religious and residential development on the property. The lawsuit asks the federal court to vacate or modify the restriction so the congregation can move forward with its long-planned temple and community campus. "The Hindu community is simply seeking the same opportunity afforded to other faith communities—a permanent place of worship and housing for its

members," attorney John Mauck, counsel for the congregation, said in a statement.

Temple and community campus planned

According to plans submitted to the City of Elgin, the proposed development includes an 86,000-square-foot Hindu temple with a maximum height of 90 feet, approximately 33 townhomes, educational and cultural facilities, community gathering spaces, and 536 parking spaces. The current proposal is significantly smaller than an earlier concept that envisioned a 231,000-square-foot temple and 38 townhomes.

UMSCM purchased the property with the vision of creating not only a place of worship but also a cultural, educational, and social center serving the growing Hindu community throughout the Chicago metropolitan area.

In January 2026, the Elgin City Council voted 6-3 to approve the project's rezoning and preliminary plat after months of public hearings. However, city officials made clear that final approval could not be granted unless the 1967 consent decree was first removed or modified by the courts.

Residents raise traffic and environmental concerns

The proposed development has generated considerable public discussion over the past year.

Residents living near the property have expressed concerns about increased traffic congestion along U.S. Route 20, potential impacts on nearby wetlands, and the overall scale of the project. During public



hearings before the City Council, some residents argued that the development could significantly increase traffic in the area and place additional pressure on local infrastructure.

Project opponents have consistently maintained that their objections are based on land-use planning, environmental considerations, and traffic management—not the religious nature of the proposed temple.

Mayor David Kaptain has previously indicated that the City of Elgin supports the temple project in principle but has been legally constrained by the existing court order. The city is named in the lawsuit primarily because it is responsible for administering and enforcing the decades-old land-use restriction.

A potentially significant religious freedom case

Legal experts say the case could become an important test of RLUIPA, the federal law enacted in 2000 to protect religious

institutions from land-use regulations that place a substantial burden on religious exercise unless governments can demonstrate a compelling public interest pursued through the least restrictive means.

If the federal court determines that the 1967 consent decree violates RLUIPA or constitutional protections, it could vacate or modify the restriction, clearing the way for Elgin to issue final approvals for one of the largest Hindu temple and community developments proposed in the Chicago region.

Serving the Kadva Patidar community
Founded in 2016, Umiya Mataji Sansthan Chicago Midwest serves members of the Kadva Patidar community across the Midwest. Inspired by the blessings of Maa Umiya, the organization is dedicated to promoting community unity, education, healthcare, scientific advancement, business development, employment opportunities, and cultural preservation.

Beyond religious worship, the proposed Elgin campus is envisioned as a center for education, community service, cultural programs, youth development, and charitable activities, providing a permanent home for one of the region's growing Hindu communities.

As the federal case moves forward, its outcome will be closely watched by religious organizations, municipal governments, and land-use advocates nationwide. The court's decision could help define how longstanding private land-use restrictions interact with modern constitutional protections for religious freedom and federal civil rights law.



Healthy heart, healthy life

Understanding your heart: The foundation of a healthy life

A new 10-part educational series by Dr. (H) Avi Verma

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

Your heart is the hardest-working muscle in your body. About the size of your clenched fist, it begins beating before you are born and continues without pause throughout your lifetime. Every day it beats nearly 100,000 times and pumps approximately 2,000 gallons (7,500 liters) of blood through a network of blood vessels that extends for nearly 60,000 miles. This remarkable organ supplies oxygen and nutrients to every cell while removing carbon dioxide and other waste products. Because every organ depends on this continuous circulation, maintaining a healthy heart is essential for a long, active, and productive life.

How the heart works

The heart is a powerful muscular pump made up of four chambers. The two upper chambers, called the right and left atria, receive blood returning to the heart, while the two lower chambers, known as the ventricles, pump blood back to the lungs and the rest of the body. The left ventricle is the strongest chamber because it must generate enough pressure to send oxygen-rich blood through the body's largest artery, the aorta, to every organ and tissue. Four one-way valves—the tricuspid, pulmonary, mitral, and aortic valves—ensure that blood flows in only one direction, preventing backflow and allowing the heart to work efficiently.

Blood circulation: Delivering life to every cell

The heart's pumping action follows two interconnected circulatory pathways. In the pulmonary circulation, oxygen-poor blood returns from the body to the right side of the heart and is pumped to the lungs, where it releases carbon dioxide and absorbs fresh oxygen. The oxygen-rich blood then returns to the left side of the heart. In the systemic circulation, the left ventricle pumps this oxygenated blood through the aorta to every organ and tissue, delivering the oxygen and nutrients needed for normal body function. This cycle repeats continuously throughout life, allowing every cell in the body to survive and function properly.

The heart's electrical system

Each heartbeat is coordinated by the heart's own electrical system. The heartbeat begins in a small cluster of specialized cells known as the Sinoatrial (SA) Node, often called the heart's natural pacemaker. Electrical impulses spread through the heart muscle in a carefully timed sequence, causing the atria and ventricles to contract in harmony. In healthy adults, the heart typically beats between 60 and 100 times per minute at rest. Disturbances in this electrical system may lead to abnormal heart rhythms, known as arrhythmias, which can sometimes become life-threatening if left untreated.

Why heart health matters

Although the heart is remarkably resilient, it is also vulnerable. Heart disease often develops silently over many years before symptoms become noticeable. According to the World Health Organization, cardiovascular disease remains the



leading cause of death worldwide. Yet the encouraging reality is that a large proportion of heart disease can be prevented through healthy lifestyle choices, regular medical checkups, and early detection of risk factors. A healthy heart not only lowers the risk of heart attacks and strokes but also supports healthy brain function, kidney health, physical endurance, and overall quality of life.

Know your risk factors

Several factors increase the risk of developing heart disease. Some are beyond our control, while others can be modified through healthier choices. Non-modifiable risk factors include increasing age, male gender, family history of premature heart disease, and inherited conditions such as familial hypercholesterolemia, which causes very high cholesterol levels from an early age. Individuals whose father or brother developed heart disease before age 55, or whose mother or sister was diagnosed before age 65, should discuss earlier screening with their healthcare provider because family history significantly influences future cardiovascular risk.

Fortunately, many of the major risk factors are preventable or treatable. High blood pressure, often called the "silent killer," damages arteries for years without causing noticeable symptoms. High LDL ("bad") cholesterol promotes the buildup of fatty plaques that narrow arteries and reduce blood flow to the heart. Diabetes accelerates damage to blood vessels and substantially increases the risk of heart attacks and strokes. Smoking injures blood vessel walls, raises blood pressure, and increases the tendency of blood to clot. Obesity, especially excess abdominal fat, physical

inactivity, unhealthy diets high in saturated fats, salt, and added sugars, chronic stress, and inadequate sleep all place additional strain on the cardiovascular system. The good news is that improving these factors can dramatically reduce the risk of heart disease, regardless of age.

Family history and genetics: Know your inherited risk

Your family medical history is one of the strongest predictors of future cardiovascular disease. If a close relative developed heart disease at an early age, your own risk may be significantly higher. While you cannot change your genetic makeup, you can reduce its impact through regular health screenings, healthy eating, physical activity, avoiding tobacco, and careful management of blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar. Understanding your family history allows you and your healthcare provider to take preventive action before problems develop.

Warning signs that should never be ignored

Equally important is recognizing the warning signs of a heart attack or other serious cardiac event. The most common symptom is discomfort in the center of the chest that may feel like pressure, tightness, heaviness, squeezing, or pain lasting several minutes or recurring. The discomfort may spread to one or both arms, the shoulders, neck, jaw, upper back, or upper abdomen. Shortness of breath, cold sweats, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, fainting, or sudden unexplained fatigue—particularly in women—may also signal a heart problem. Women, older adults, and people with diabetes sometimes experience less typical symptoms, which unfortunately can delay

diagnosis and treatment. Because every minute counts during a heart attack, these symptoms should never be ignored. Immediate medical attention can save heart muscle and save lives.

Heart health takeaway

Your heart works continuously every second of your life, quietly sustaining every organ in your body. Understanding how it functions, recognizing your personal risk factors, knowing your family history, and identifying the warning signs of heart disease are the first and most important steps toward lifelong cardiovascular health. While age and genetics cannot be changed, most heart disease can be prevented through healthy lifestyle choices, regular medical checkups, and timely treatment. Protecting your heart begins with knowledge—and the choices you make every day.

Coming Next: Heart-healthy living

Nutrition, exercise, weight management, stress reduction, sleep, and other lifestyle choices that can significantly lower your risk of cardiovascular disease.

Disclaimer

The information presented in this Health Corner series is intended solely for educational and public awareness purposes. It is not intended to replace professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment, nor should it be considered a medical consultation. Readers should consult their physician or a qualified healthcare professional regarding any questions or concerns about their heart health or before making decisions related to their medical care.

Personal finance insights: News & Features

Mini Feature: ANNUITIES REVISITED

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAII Bull-Bear Spread -0.9% (below average)
 CNN Fear & Greed Index 49 (neutral)
 NYSE %Above 50-dMA 58.79% (positive)
 SP500 %Above 50-dMA 68.60% (positive)

ICI Fund Allocations (Cumulative), 5/31/26
 OEFs & ETFs: Stocks 63.26%, Hybrids 3.89%, Bonds 16.80%, M-Mkt 16.05%

INTEREST RATES

CME FedWatch
 Cycle peak 5.25-5.50%
 Current 3.50-3.75%
 FOMC 7/29/26+ hold
 FOMC 9/16/26+ hike

Treasury

T-Bills 3-mo yield 3.85%, 1-yr 4.06%;
 T-Notes 2-yr 4.21%, 5-yr 4.30%, 10-yr 4.56%; T-Bonds 30-yr 5.06% (normal yield-curve);
 TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 2.02%, 10-yr 2.32%, 30-yr 2.86%
 FRNs Index 3.771%

Bank Rates www.depositaccounts.com/

Stable-Value (SV) Rates, 7/1/26
 TIAA Traditional Annuity (Accumulation) Rates
 Restricted RC 5.25%, RA 5.00%
 Flexible RCP 4.50%, SRA 4.25%, IRA-101110+ 4.10%
 TIAA MYGA 4.55% (3-yr), 4.70% (5-yr), 4.75% (7-yr)
 TSP G Fund 4.500% (previous 4.500%)

India Fear & Greed MMI 65.02 (greed-high)
 Weekly ETFs: INDA -0.52%, INDY -0.53%, EPI -0.70%, INDH -0.40% | SPY +1.37%



The data above are as of Sunday preceding the publication date.

BANKING - NRI A/C in INDIA

NRO - rupee savings a/c with checking; debit card; non-repatriable; Indian taxes; transfer rupees or dollars
 NRE - rupee savings a/c with checking; debit card; repatriable; no Indian taxes; transfer dollar or hard currency only; NRE to NRO transfers only
 FCNR - dollar a/c; deposit terms 1-5 yrs; repatriable; no Indian taxes; fund via NRE or wire transfer; temporarily higher interest 6-7% as RBI is covering banks' foreign currency losses (FCNR issued from Jun 8 - Sep 30, 2026); FCNR transfers possible to NRO (not recommended) or NRE (recommended)
 All major Indian banks: HDFC ICICI, PNB, SBI, etc.

EDUCATION

Collapsed ed-tech Byju's global debt holders want bankruptcy settlement with 30% stake in one of Byju's partially owned offline coaching chain Aakash Educational

Services. Byju acquired Aakash in 2021 but now has only minority stake due to dilutions. Aakash has 300+ centers with teaching/ coaching 5,000 experts for test preparatory services for medical & engineering entrance exams & tutoring.

INDUSTRIALS

UAE International Holding Company (IHC) & Adani Enterprise Ltd (AEL) will launch an aluminum joint-venture (JV; 50-50) in Odisha, India with 2 phases. The integrated aluminum complex will include refinery, smelter, captive power plant & downstream aluminum manufacturing. Odisha has large bauxite reserves that are used to produce aluminum; the state accounts for 54% of Indian aluminum output. Adani & IHC also have other projects (renewable energy, smart grid) in India.

IT/TECH

A consortium of companies from US (Microsoft), Singapore (Lightstorm, ASEA Cablesip, Singapore Telecom), Japan (NEC) & India (Tata Communications) will build an undersea cable (2,237 miles) by 2029 between India & Southeast Asia (Singapore, Malaysia) to support datacenters for AI/IT. Lightstrom will also list in India in 2027.

SPECIAL TOPIC - ANNUITIES REVISITED

Annuities are complex & can be expensive. There are many types, so, which one to buy? Most people should focus on just 4 types of annuities.

ACCUMULATING ANNUITIES

If your 401k/403b plan offers accumulating annuities, also called stable-value (SV) funds, compare their monthly crediting rates with available money-market funds. Choose whichever clearly has higher yield. There may be restrictions on switching back & forth.

are for 3, 5, 7 years. There is tax deferral, but 10% penalty for withdrawals before 59.5 & early surrender charges typically apply. You can renew or change vendor through 1035 exchange. Decide if their extra rates are worth the headaches vs bank or brokered CDs.

LIFETIME INCOME

Single premium immediate annuities (SPIAs) are the most basic & cheapest lifetime income annuities. Compare their payouts & ratings. The decision to buy them is irrevocable (no refunds). Guaranteed income periods of 10, 15, 20 years may be available.

Deferred income annuities (DIAs), also called longevity insurance, are bought now but lifetime income streams are deferred until later ages. The money compounds with interest. These include QLACs from T-IRAs, 401k/403b (limit \$210K in 2026); these \$amounts escape T-IRA RMDs.

Free online quote services or independent agents can provide more choices than insurer agents. Choose insurers with acceptable combinations of rates/ payouts & ratings. The state insurance departments provide guarantees (typical \$250K - 500K per person, per insurer, in 2026), but their goals are workouts, not immediate settlements. So, avoid low-rated insurers.

If you have 25x annual expenses, then 12.5x can be used for lifetime income from SPIA or retirement plan option & the remaining 12.5x in conservative/ moderate portfolio for additional expenses, contingencies & inflation adjustments. This would be a modification of Bengen's 4% SWR w/COLA rule that assumes all withdrawals from portfolio only.

For more information, see www.ybbpersonalfinance.proboards.com

Multiyear guaranteed annuities (MYGAs)



Everything you need to know about IUHS School of Medicine

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

1. Location: Our study center is based on the Caribbean island of St. Kitts, but there is no requirement to travel there. The administrative office is in Winnipeg, Canada.

2. Program Structure & Exams:

- ▶ **Preclinical Phase (Years 1 & 2):** Fully online, divided into 11 study blocks. The first block is 12 weeks, the rest are 8 weeks each. After completion, students take the IUHS Exit Exam, and U.S. students also prepare for Step 1.
- ▶ **Clinical Phase (Years 3 & 4):** 80 weeks of rotations—48 weeks core, 32 weeks electives. Students then take the IUHS Exit Exam 2 and officially graduate. U.S. students also take Step 2 before graduation.

3. Assessments:

- ▶ End-of-block graded exams
- ▶ DxR Clinician virtual patient simulation graded assignments
- ▶ Non-graded DAR exams (at the end of Blocks 3, 6, 9) to identify

knowledge gaps.

- ▶ Lectorio self-assessments which are mandatory but not graded.

4. Teaching methods:

- ▶ **Systems-based learning:** Integrates anatomy, pathology, and pharmacology within each body system.
- ▶ **Problem-based learning:** Encourages critical thinking and challenges students to draw on all the knowledge they have acquired as they would in a real-life scenario when treating a patient.
- ▶ **Spaced repetition:** Reinforces knowledge through periodic review, enhancing long-term retention.

5. Clinical rotations:

- ▶ U.S. students can complete all rotations at the main affiliated hospital in Chicago, Illinois with additional sites in Texas, West Virginia, California, Nevada, Missouri and Arizona (subject to availability). Clinical rotation preparation starts around Block 8.
- ▶ Australian students have a



dedicated clinical director assisting them with the arrangements for clinical placements.

6. DxR Clinician: is a medical education software designed to help students develop clinical reasoning and diagnostic skills. It provides virtual patient cases that simulate real-life medical scenarios, allowing students to practice taking patient histories, ordering diagnostic tests, making differential diagnoses, and developing treatment plans.

Key Features:

- ▶ Interactive case-based learning with simulated patient encounters
- ▶ Clinical reasoning training to improve diagnostic accuracy
- ▶ Access to medical history, physical exams, and lab results
- ▶ Immediate feedback on decision-making and reasoning DxR Clinician is integrated into IUHS's problem-based learning (PBL) and case-based learning (CBL) curricula to enhance students' ability to apply medical knowledge in real world scenarios.

7. Live lectures: Learn from top-tier professors who also teach at prestigious universities through live, interactive lectures. Sessions are scheduled on weekdays, and if you miss one, you can easily catch up with recorded lectures available in the virtual library at your convenience.

8. Question and Concept Sessions:

In addition to live lectures, students can participate in weekly live Q&C sessions with the academic advisor for their current block of study. These sessions provide valuable support for students studying from home, fostering engagement with both peers and faculty.

9. Lectorio: is a digital learning platform providing medical education resources. It offers a comprehensive, AI-driven learning system designed to support medical education through high-quality video lectures, question banks, and advanced learning tools.

Key Features:

- ▶ Comprehensive Medical Curriculum Support – Covers

preclinical and clinical subjects aligned with USMLE, NBME, and other global medical exams.

- ▶ High-Quality Video Lectures – Taught by expert professors from leading medical institutions.
- ▶ AI-Powered Adaptive Learning – Personalized study recommendations based on student performance.
- ▶ Question Banks & Clinical Case Scenarios – USMLE-style questions, explanations, and performance tracking.
- ▶ Spaced Repetition & Smart Recall – Helps reinforce learning and improve long term retention.

Lectorio supplements the education delivered, improves student performance, and provide flexible, self-paced learning opportunities.

10. Mentorship: IUHS integrates the Integrated Clinical Medicine program into the preclinical years of the MD curriculum, allowing students to gain early exposure to clinical settings. This hands-on experience gives IUHS students a competitive edge over their peers from other universities.

IUHS students become comfortable and confident in a clinical environment before starting clinical rotations having developed the necessary clinical skills. Working alongside a local physician mentor, each student spends 20 hours per month shadowing and discussing cases with their mentor, a doctor from their own community. Under the guidance of IUHS's clinical director, students select a mentor who fits their needs and location. This early integration of clinical skills enhances learning, bridging the gap between theory and practice, and making the transition to full-time clinical training more seamless and rewarding.

11. Get in Touch: You can ask me anything about IUHS if you still have more questions!

*Join IUHS to transform
your dream of becoming a medical
doctor into reality.*

*For more information and to apply,
visit www.iuhs.edu*



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Kickoff in style with these World Cup final fashion essentials

The FIFA World Cup final is more than the biggest match in football—it has become one of the season's most stylish events. From packed stadiums and lively fan zones to rooftop watch parties and neighborhood gatherings, the final offers the perfect opportunity to embrace fashion that is equal parts sporty, comfortable and effortlessly chic.

This year's trend is all about elevating athletic-inspired dressing. Think relaxed silhouettes, lightweight fabrics and versatile separates that move seamlessly from kick-off to post-match celebrations. A football-inspired jersey, whether representing your favorite team or simply worn as a fashion statement, pairs beautifully with tailored shorts, a pleated skirt or wide-leg trousers for a modern, polished look.

For those heading to a stadium or outdoor screening, breathable cotton, linen and moisture-wicking fabrics are ideal choices. Neutral tones create a clean summer aesthetic, while pops of your



team's colors through scarves, caps or crossbody bags add personality without overwhelming the outfit. Comfortable

sneakers, loafers or cushioned sandals are practical options for long hours on your feet while still looking stylish.

opt for hairstyles such as sleek ponytails, loose waves or braided looks that can withstand a day of excitement.



Hosting friends at home or attending a casual watch party calls for a more relaxed approach. Oversized T-shirts, coordinated lounge sets, capri pants or relaxed denim offer comfort without sacrificing style. Layering with a lightweight overshirt or bomber jacket ensures you're prepared for changing evening temperatures.

Accessories can elevate even the simplest ensemble. Oversized sunglasses, minimalist jewelry, baseball caps and woven bags bring a polished finish while remaining functional. Keep makeup fresh and natural with a focus on long-lasting products, and

The growing influence of football on fashion reflects a broader shift toward sports-inspired luxury and everyday wear. Today's fans are blending athletic pieces with classic wardrobe staples, proving that style is no longer confined to the runway. Whether you're cheering from the stands, gathering with friends or watching from the comfort of your living room, the winning look is one that combines confidence, comfort and personal expression. After all, the World Cup final is not just about celebrating the beautiful game—it's also about dressing like you're part of the occasion.

Ashwani Chadha's

JALANDHAR

JEWELLERS

DIAMOND | GOLD | KUNDAN POLKI | PLATINUM



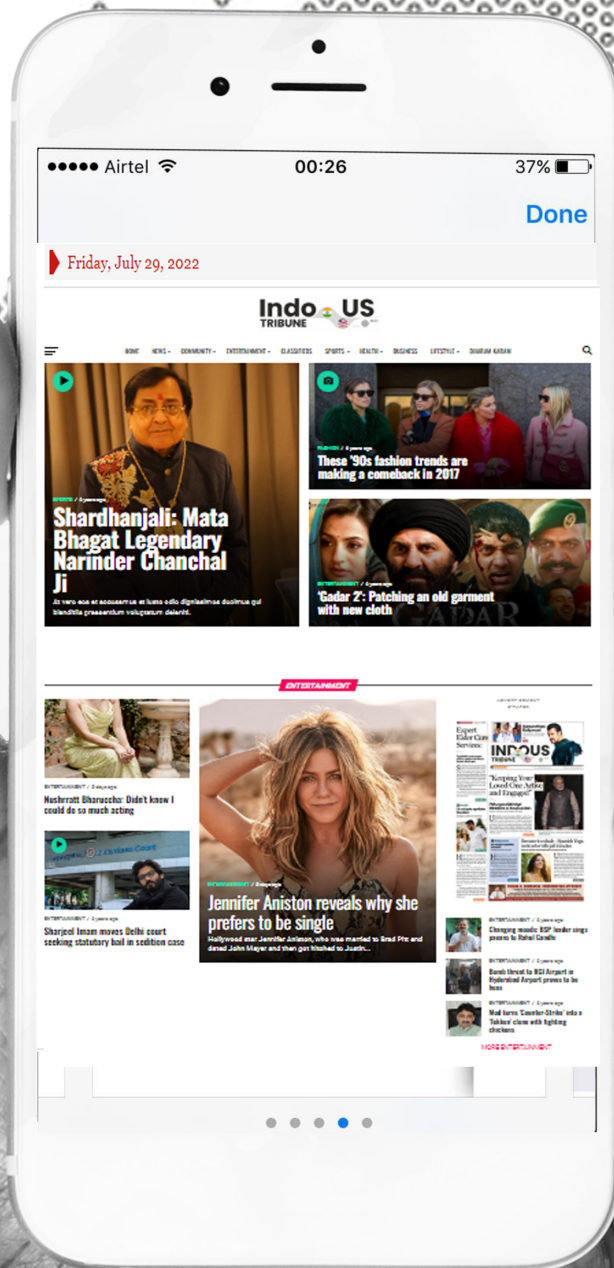



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